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Japan

Government Considering Humanitarian Aid to USSR

OW2811042490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0416 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Top government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said Wednesday the government would give urgent attention to the question of whether to make available humanitarian assistance to the Soviet Union, which is suffering shortages of food and medicine. "From a humanitarian perspective this is something that should be given consideration without delay," Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto told a regularly scheduled news conference. "The Soviet economy is in worse condition than we had thought," as a severe winter sets in, Sakamoto said.

Sakamoto, noting that Germany has already offered assistance, said the government would consult with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party on the extension of humanitarian aid. Japan has not received a specific request for assistance, he said.

Soviet diplomats in Tokyo have said they are seeking emergency humanitarian aid to offset shortages of food, medicine, and essential household items expected during the approaching winter.

In Moscow and Leningrad potato stocks are down to one third to one quarter the level of the previous year.

USSR Asks for Money To Boost Oil Output

OW2811113190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1020 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—A senior Soviet economist said Wednesday his country needs Japanese money and technology to boost oil production, stating that only foreign investment can revitalize the Soviet oil industry.

Speaking at a symposium here, Youriy Ershov, deputy director of the Institute of Foreign Economic Relations, said Soviet oil output has been on the wane due to lack of investments and the downtrend will lead to a 12 percent fall in Soviet oil exports this year.

Soviet crude oil output, the largest in the world, fell 5 percent in the first nine months of this year in a decline accelerated by old-fashioned facilities and poor investment in new oil wells, he said. The Soviet economist also singled out poor supplies of related materials such as cement, steel pipes, and pumps as short-term problems facing the Soviet oil industry.

Ershov said foreign investment is the only way to improve the situation and the new union treaty now before the Soviet parliament is expected to feature measures to promote foreign investment.

The treaty, presented by President Mikhail Gorbachev, would redefine the central government's relationship with the 15 Soviet republics to give them control over virtually all affairs except defense.

Jordan To Receive Loans of 14.5 Billion Yen

OW2811082990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Japan has agreed to extend 14.5 billion yen in quick-disbursement commodity loans to Jordan as part of its contribution to resolving the Persian Gulf crisis, Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday.

The 14,560 million yen in generally untied loans, which are to be disbursed within the year, will carry an exceptionally low 1 percent annual interest rate and are to be repaid over 30 years, officials said.

The loans form Jordan's portion of Japan's pledge in September to extend 600 million dollars in urgent commodity loans to Jordan, Egypt, and Turkey.

The money is designed to ease Jordan's economic turmoil in the aftermath of neighboring Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait in August.

Government Not To Open Rice Market

OW2811120190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Wednesday the government will not change its policy of banning rice imports to ensure self-sufficiency in the grain.

Liberalization of farm trade is a key issue in the Uruguay Round of trade talks scheduled to conclude early next month in Brussels.

Kaifu said he has instructed Agriculture Minister Tamio Yamamoto, who will attend the ministerial meeting designed to wrap up the talks, to seek a mutually acceptable solution with the United States and the European Community.

Kaifu said the government has implemented an agricultural adjustment program calling for a 30 percent cut in domestic rice production. Japan has a large surplus of rice purchased by the government at prices far above the world market prices.

To Liberalize Starch, Milk Products

OW2811114090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1113 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—The government has decided to conditionally liberalize two items after an agreement is reached on farm trade under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, government sources said Wednesday. They said the items to be liberalized will be starch and milk products, including skimmed powdered milk.

Higher tariffs will be imposed on imports of these products after liberalization, the sources said. They said the government has judged it would be difficult for Japan to retain import restrictions on the two items in bilateral negotiations with the United States. Liberalization of the items will be put off if negotiations on farm trade issues between the United States and the European Community rupture, the sources said.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) ruled in favor of the U.S. complaint against Japan's import restrictions on the two items in 1987. Japan, however, rejected the ruling, claiming it would severely damage the domestic dairy industry and instead paid compensation to the United States. Japan and the United States have agreed to discuss the issue by next spring.

Japan had intended to retain import controls on the two items under the GATT's escape clause, but changed its position in view of strong U.S. pressure, the sources said.

November Finance Talks With U.S. Postponed

OW2811120490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Working-level talks between Japan and the United States on Japan's deregulation of bank deposits, originally slated in Washington for November, have apparently been postponed and there is no chance for the talks within this year, officials at the Ministry of Finance said Tuesday.

Growing tension in the Persian Gulf affected the U.S. plans for the meeting, the third of its kind after the one held in May, according to the officials.

U.S. Treasury officials demanded that Japan lift regulations on interest rates for bank deposits at the May meeting, not only on time deposits but also on ordinary deposits, within one year. Japan agreed to lift regulations, but failed to set a deadline, and this was going to be discussed at the postponed meeting.

The officials said another meeting has not yet been scheduled, but the Japanese Finance Ministry will continue to prepare for it in its effort to set a clear deadline for deregulation in order to avoid financial friction.

Regulations on Foreign Securities Firms Changed

OW2111131190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—The government said Monday it will allow foreign securities companies, even those without offices in Japan, to engage in direct transactions with individual Japanese investors starting next Monday.

Government officials said it is a part of the ongoing liberalization of the financial industry. The government will change regulations on foreign securities companies at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, they added.

Under the current regulations, securities firms from abroad are allowed to deal with individual Japanese investors only after obtaining a license from the Finance Ministry and opening an office here. Those firms with no offices have been allowed to trade only with Japanese financial companies.

Although the new change will allow them to have direct transactions, the government will not allow international firms to market their services in the japanese market in order to protect Japanese investors, according to the officials. Foreign firms thus cannot solicit Japanese customers by direct mail or advertisements, nor can they hold seminars.

A Finance Ministry official said that allowing such canvassing by foreign firms would harm Japan's licensing system for securities businesses.

Trading of futures and options are also not included in the changes this time.

Japanese regulations of not allowing foreign firms to have direct transactions for Japanese investors and of limiting the amount Japanese can deposit overseas remain two points of contention between Japan and the United States.

The U.S. has charged in bilateral negotiations on the liberalization of Japanese financial markets that such regulations stand as obstacles to Japanese investors wanting to buy U.S. financial instruments.

The limit on overseas deposits for individual Japanese was raised to 30 million yen from 5 million yen on July 30.

Consortium Finds Gas Off Northwest Kalimantan

OW2211133190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1258 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Japan's Indonesia Petroleum Ltd. announced Thursday that 63 million cubic feet of natural gas per day gushed forth at a well off northwestern Kalimantan, Indonesia.

The well is located in the B zone of the South Natuna Sea, about 1,000 kilometers north of Jakarta. It has been drilled by a consortium of four companies, including Inpex Natuna Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Indonesia Petroleum, and three U.S. oil firms, Conoco, Texaco and Chevron. The consortium has so far prospected for oil and gas mainly in the B zone.

The Tokyo-based Indonesia Petroleum Ltd. said the consortium also discovered an oil and gas well near the newly drilled well late last year. The well is known as Belida well, and produces 12,000 barrels of oil and 61 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

There is a plan for the Indonesian state-run petroleum and gas corporation, Pertamina, to supply the natural gas produced in the zone to a Singaporean thermal power plant through an underwater pipeline.

Natural gas deposits in the Natuna Sea are roughly estimated at 50 trillion cubic feet.

General Account Budget To Top 70 Trillion Yen

OW2411120090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 24 KYODO—Spending under the government's general account will top the 70 trillion yen mark for the first time in the budget for fiscal 1991, starting April 1 next year, a Finance Ministry source said Saturday. This will be an increase of 6-7 percent from the 66.23 trillion yen initial fiscal 1990 budget.

The rise stems from an expected expansion of general expenditures, or government operating expenses, and an increase in debt servicing costs, the source said. General expenditures are estimated to reach some 37 trillion yen, showing the biggest rate of growth since fiscal 1981, when a 4.3 percent increase was registered.

The source attributed the growth in general expenditures to such elements as a new budget item worth 200 billion yen for improving the quality of life, and additional personnel expenses.

Debt servicing costs are likely to increase more than 10 percent to some 16 trillion yen as interest payments on government bonds are sure to rise, the source said. The coupon rate on such bonds has risen about 2 percentage points in the past year. Tax grants to local governments are estimated to stand at 17 trillion yen.

On the revenue side, tax receipts are projected at a sluggish 62 trillion yen because no major growth is expected in corporate taxes, the source said.

Mieno Hints at Continued Tight Grip on Credit

OW2611060090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0551 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Nagoya, Nov. 26 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno indicated Monday the central bank will retain tight controls through its monetary engineering despite the recent downward trend in the long-term prime rate. "The fall in the long-term prime rate will not influence the BOJ's monetary policy," Mieno told a press conference.

The remarks came on the heels of an informal decision by Japan's three long-term credit banks to lower their long-term prime rate in December for the second straight month.

In a demonstration of its tight monetary stance, the BOJ stayed away from the money market on Monday morning, leaving it in a massive deficit.

Mieno, now in Nagoya to meet local business leaders, also said the BOJ will keep a watchful eye on price stability, which has been increasingly threatened by the heating economy and higher crude oil prices. "The tightening balance in the labor market amid the strong economy is adding latent pressure on prices. The price movements need to be watched carefully," Mieno said.

Mieno indicated he favors a strong yen when he said he hopes the market reflects economic fundamentals in each country. Mieno said he hopes the yen will continue to be strong, since a higher yen contributes to price stability in Japan by making imports cheaper. But he quickly warned against a plunge in the value of the U.S. dollar, which he has repeatedly said would damage the world economy.

Apparently aimed at dampening hopes of a credit easing by the BOJ, Mieno said land prices, though moderating the pace of their climb, are still at considerably high levels. "It is not the time to be concerned about a collapse of the land market," he said.

On the declining health of Japanese financial institutions, Mieno shrugged off the view that this might cause confusion in the nation's financial system and lead to more mergers among them.

Under the burden of higher interest rates and the slump on the Tokyo stock market, most financial institutions posted sharp cuts in their earnings in the first half of fiscal 1990, ended September 30.

Mieno expressed confidence in the banks' ability to achieve the capital-to-asset requirements set by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). "It is true that Japan's financial deregulation and globalization put pressure on their management. But I believe they are strong enough to fulfill the requirements," Mieno said.

Meiwa To Get Financial Help From Mitsubishi

OW2211134490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 22 KYODO—Meiwa Trading Co., a medium-sized Japanese trader, said Thursday the Mitsubishi Group will provide financial help to the company, which is suffering from delayed credit interest payments by Cuba.

Meiwa, affiliated with the Mitsubishi Group, reported an 86 million yen unconsolidated pretax loss at the September 30 closing of accounts for the first half of the current fiscal year. The company blamed the deficit on the burden of interest rates on uncollected credit worth 10.5 billion yen extended to Cuba.

In an attempt to rebuild its finances, the company decided to receive financial help from its three main shareholders. The three are Mitsubishi Corp., Mitsubishi Kasei Corp., and Asahi Glass Co. of the Mitsubishi Group, Meiwa officials said.

The three companies agreed that Meiwa will allocate 4.77 billion yen worth of new shares to them as third parties on December 18. Mitsubishi Corp. will take 80 percent of the total of 9 million new shares, and the other two companies will take 10 percent each, the officials said. In addition, Meiwa will get 16 billion yen in loans from Mitsubishi Corp. at relatively low interest rates, they added. According to Meiwa's restructuring plan, it will use the new funds to clear its debts.

With other streamlining measures, including a layoff of about 50 staff employees, the company expects it can rebuild its finances and resume payments of dividends in March 1993, the officials added.

First Marketplace for Imported Beef Planned

OW2611115490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Nagoya, Nov. 26 KYODO—A group of local meat distributors will open a meat exchange here next April, creating Japan's first marketplace for imported beef in a move timed to mark the government's lifting of beef import quotas, officials said Monday.

The Chubu meat trading center, planned by the Aichi Meat Local Wholesale Market (AMLWM), is designed to provide domestic buyers and overseas sellers with a mechanism to set imported beef prices fairly, AMLWM officials said.

The center will handle imported beef as well as other meats with a computerized trading system developed jointly with the Mitsubishi Research Institute, a major private think tank, they said.

The system allows Japanese meat distributors and packers to place buy orders on their computer terminals while monitoring offers from beef exporters. "This will make it easier for consumers to understand a price-setting mechanism and will contribute to stability in beef prices," said AMLWM Managing Director Isao Fujimura.

On the part of exporters, Fujimura said, the center will help reduce risks involved in beef exports as contracts are made in advance of shipment.

At present, the governmental livestock industry promotion corp. imports beef solely based on a quota system and sells to local buyers after adding steep tariffs, leaving beef prices high compared with those abroad. But Japan, under pressure from the United States, agreed in 1988 to phase out such import quotas and other import restrictions on beef in April 1991.

By an estimate by the U.S. Agriculture Department, Japan's imports of U.S. beef could double to 2 billion dollars annually during the 1990s when the import restrictions are lifted.

Agency To Publish Business Monthly in English

OW1511014490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0111 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 15 (KYODO)—A Japanese corporate rating agency said Thursday it will publish a monthly report on the performance of leading companies in English from January.

Japan Credit Rating Agency Ltd. said its publication will include corporate analyses based on its own research, reports on various industries, and related business and economic background information.

The annual subscription for the publication, entitled JAPAN CORPORATE RATINGS, will be 300,000 yen or 2,000 U.S. dollars.

Agency officials said the move was prompted by growing demand among non-Japanese investors for accurate information on Japanese corporations and industries.

Kaifu Welcomes Tory Election of John Major

OW2811045490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0438 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu welcomed John Major as the successor to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Wednesday, saying he hoped Major would continue the policies set forth by his predecessor. "I hope he will attach importance to Japan-British relations and will continue along the (policy) lines of Prime Minister Thatcher," Kaifu told reporters.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said he hoped Major would continue the close partnership established between the two countries, and praised 47-year-old Major for his ability to take action as a "fresh" leader. "He has the support of a wide spectrum of citizens," Sakamoto said.

Major, the current chancellor of the exchequer, was selected by Britain's ruling Conservative Party Tuesday over two rivals, former Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Wednesday that Britain's economic policy will remain unchanged under the leadership of John Major. But he noted that Major is expected to bring more flexibility to Britain's stance toward the European Community (EC) than in the past. "Although I've only gotten to know him since the meeting of finance ministers and central bank heads of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations held in Paris this past April, my impression of him is that he's flexible, but tough," Hashimoto said. "Unlike Thatcher, who comes straight at you head on when negotiating, Major has a more resilient way of negotiating," he said. "He'll be a very tough negotiating partner," he said.

38 Japanese Orphans Arrive in Tokyo From PRC

OW2611104190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—A group of 38 Japanese left behind in China at the end of World War II arrived in Tokyo on Monday for a 15-day visit in an attempt to find their long-lost relatives.

Members of the group will meet possible relatives during their stay in Japan until December 10. They will spend most of their time in Tokyo, but will also tour Osaka in western Japan for two days, the Ministry of Health and Welfare said. The effort is the 21st since the ministry started the program in March 1981.

An unknown number of Japanese children were separated from their parents in China amid the confusion at the end of World War II. Most of them were the children of Japanese colonists in Manchuria in northeastern China, then ruled by a Japanese-installed puppet regime.

A total of 1,726 such displaced persons have already visited Japan and 620 of them have been reunited with relatives.

Riot Police Arrest 2 in Narita Hut Demolition

OW2811063290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0558 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., Nov. 28—Two members of a radical anti-airport group were arrested Wednesday by riot police backing up demolition workers sent to remove a hut near Narita Airport, police said.

The arrests came on the second day of an operation in which a group of 250 workers from the Airport Authority and the Transport Ministry, backed up by 5,000 riot police, moved in to demolish the hut.

The hut, with a total floor space of 265 square meters, was built by the Battle Flag faction of the Communist League (Senki-Kyosando) some two kilometers east of the airport passenger terminal building as a symbol of support for farmers opposed to the airport expansion project.

A group of activists barricaded inside the hut hurled gasoline bombs and used homemade flamethrowers to fight off the demolition workers and riot police Tuesday. One of the activists sustained injuries from a fall from the roof of the four-story structure and was taken to the hospital.

On Wednesday, the demolition workers returned to the scene after 6 a.m. with 14 pieces of heavy equipment, including bulldozers and cranes. A squad of riot police then stormed into the hut and arrested the two activists on charges of obstructing the police in the course of their duties, the authorities said.

The airport authorities said Wednesday they plan to finish the demolition of the hut the same day.

LDP Electoral Reform Plan Submitted to Kaifu

OW2711143890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1401 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 27 KYODO—Two committees of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] on Tuesday jointly submitted an electoral reform plan to LDP President and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, advocating a reduction of the number of seats in the country's House of Representatives.

The party's political reform headquarters and the research commission on the election system approved the draft plan at a joint session after five and a half hours of discussion.

The draft calls for a reduction of the number of seats in the powerful lower house of the Diet or parliament from 512 to 471. It also calls for combining single-seat constituencies and a proportional representation system for elections to the lower house.

Of the 471 seats remaining after the reform, 300 would be elected from single-seat electoral districts while the remaining 171 would be selected under a proportional representation system. Eligible voters would vote for one candidate in their electoral district and for a party under the proportional representation formula according to the LDP plan.

The draft also urged to set up a panel to discuss reorganization of its regional organizations and how candidates should be chosen to promote intraparty democratization and to study whether to set a retirement age, LDP officials said.

The LDP plans to finalize the electoral reform plan after the draft is discussed by its policy board and executive council.

Dioxin Pollution Detected in Osaka Bay Fish

OW2611143890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1332 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 26 KYODO—Limited quantities of high toxicity dioxin have been detected in fish in Osaka Bay for the first time in three years, indicating increasing pollution of sea and river beds by the chemical, an Environment Agency report warned on Monday.

The pollution is not so serious, however, as to pose a danger to human health, the report said, adding that the agency would closely monitor the water environment for signs of increasing pollution.

The report, based on the results of an agency fact-finding survey conducted in 1989, was submitted to a panel of experts on chemical substances of the Central Council for Environmental Pollution Control. The Health and Welfare Ministry also plans to independently formulate guidelines next month for restricting the discharge of dioxin at its sources, such as garbage incinerators and pulp mills.

The Environment Agency survey, the fifth since 1985, monitored the intensity of 28 strains of dioxin in fish and shellfish in 11 rivers, three lakes and swamps, and 11 sea areas and harbors nationwide. The findings revealed that young sea bass sampled in Osaka Bay were contaminated with between 1 and 3 ppt (one-millionth of ppm) of tetrachloride dioxin (TCDD), the largest amount detected in Osaka and Tokyo Bays since 1986.

Between 1 and 8 ppt of tetrachloride dybenzofran (tcdf), which is one-tenth of TCDD in toxicity, was found in fish samples collected in the Mogami and Shinano Rivers in north Japan, the Yodo River in Osaka and Osaka Bay, Ise Bay in Mie Prefecture, and other waterfronts around the country, the survey said.

Seabeds in Tokyo and Osaka Bays also revealed 2 to 4 ppt of TCDD, with 1 to 13 ppt of quintachloride dibenzofluorate dioxin found in Kasumigaura, Biwa and Suwa Lakes, in Ibaraki, Shiga and Nagano Prefectures respectively, as well as Osaka Bay, it said.

In terms of the U.S. Environment Protection Agency standards, the overall density of dioxin in Osaka bay was 24 ppt and that in fish was 5 ppt. Both toxic levels were about one-tenth of the interim safety guideline set by the Health and Welfare Ministry in 1984, the report said.

TCDD, used in a defoliant agent sprayed by the U.S. military in the Vietnam War, is the most deadly of dioxin strains, causing a high risk of cancer and deformity.

North Korea

Agreements Made at Third N-S Contact on Concert

*SK2811111690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1032 GMT 28 Nov 90*

[Text] Panmunjom November 28 (KCNA)—The third contact between working officials of the North and the South of Korea was held today at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Advisory Commission here to discuss practical matters concerning the participation of the Pyongyang National Musical Troupe in the "Traditional Concert for Reunification Seeing 1990 Out" due in Seoul.

The two sides exchanged views on the number of persons of our side to participate in the concert and their itinerary in Seoul.

They agreed to set the number of our side's participants at 33.

They decided to finally confirm the itinerary of our music troupe in Seoul and other practical matters at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission here at 11 A.M. On December 3.

Papers View No's Speech on UN Membership Issue

*SK2211071890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0445 GMT 22 Nov 90*

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today comment on the outcry of No Tae-u in his "speech" at the "plenary session of the National Assembly" November 19 that the North and the South should "enter the United Nations simultaneously."

The news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says:

The chief executive of South Korea openly called for the splittist "simultaneous entry into the United Nations" at a time when a contact between delegates to the North-South High-Level Talks is being made to discuss and resolve the question of sharing one seat in the U.N. by the two parts of the country. This is a very improper act that casts a gloom on the prospect of the North-South High-Level Talks and endangers the reunification dialogue itself.

The South side once admitted that it is a short cut and favorable to reunification for the North and the South to share a single seat in the world body.

The traitor No Tae-u, however, cried for the divisive "simultaneous entry" into it, turning down our single-seat membership proposal oriented to reunification. This is an open manifestation of a stand of refusing dialogue and reunification.

For the South Korean rulers to behave arbitrarily before the discussion of the U.N. problem is clinched at the North-South High-Level Talks is an unfaithful act toward their dialogue partner and an unpardonable anti-national, anti-dialogue and anti-reunification act trifling with the desire of the fellow countrymen for reunification.

The traitor No contended that "simultaneous entry into the U.N." would "diminish the possibility" of an armed conflict on the Korean peninsula. But this was a reversed argument for concealing his splittist color.

The political and military confrontation is growing acute on the Korean peninsula and the danger of war is hanging over it not because the North and the South remain outside the United Nations, but because the country is divided.

There is no use of dialogue, if the North and the South are to remain divided.

Twanging the harp of "simultaneous entry," the puppets linked it with the "promotion of the North-South dialogue." But this is a far-fetched argument that cannot go down with anyone.

Being a serious internal problem of the nation related to the future orientation of the North-South relations and the prospect of national reunification, the U.N. membership problem must be resolved, under all circumstances, through open-hearted discussion and consultation between the North and the South in conformity with the principle of national self-determination.

The news analyst of MINJU CHOSON says that, if the South Korean authorities are truly interested in the peace and peaceful reunification of the country, it should not bring forward such divisive proposal as "unilateral entry" or "simultaneous entry" into the world body, but should approach with sincerity the discussion of the question of sharing one seat there.

Spokesman Calls for Peace Agreement With U.S.

SK2711154290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 27 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today answered a question put by a KCNA reporter on the signing of the treaty on the reduction of conventional weapons in Europe between the heads of the member nations of the NATO and the Warsaw treaty orgnization in Paris some time ago.

The spokesman welcomed the signing of the treaty on the reduction of conventional weapons in Europe between 16 member nations of the NATO and 6 member nations of the Warsaw treaty organization in Paris a few days ago, and said this constitutes a positive step for disarmament and detente in Europe.

He said that it is favorable to world peace and security to realise disarmament and advance toward detente in Europe in view of the fact that the First and Second World Wars broke out in Europe.

Noting that the treaty has some limitations, the spokesman said, if disarmament is to be realised in Europe where military equipment is concentrated, still more efforts are needed.

Stressing that the process of detente and disarmament should be practised in the Asia-Pacific region, too, he said that, if confrontation is to be terminated and detente realised in this region, the disputes should be settled, the nuclear powers should remove nuclear threat to the non-nuclear nations, troops and equipment should be pulled out of other countries and all states should drastically cut conventional armed forces on the principle of mutual security to reduce armed confrontation between states to the minimum level.

Stressing that if peace is to be guaranteed in Asia, steps for detente and disarmament should be carried into practice, first of all, on the Korean peninsula where political and military confrontation is most acute, he said a peace agreement should be signed between the DPRK and the United States and a nonaggression declaration be adopted between the North and the South, the U.S. forces be withdrawn from South Korea and the Armed Forces of the North and the South be reduced to the minimum size.

If the United States truly want peace in the Asian-Pacific region, there is no ground or excuse for it to deploy nuclear weapons in South Korea, he said, and demanded in conclusion that the United States stop the act of aggravating the arms race, while rejecting our proposal to realize detente and disarmament on the Korean peninsula and putting spur to armament expansion and modernisation of equipment.

U.S Weapons Transfers to South Criticized

SK2311111990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 23 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists must stop at once their criminal moves to transfer mass destruction weapons to South Korea, going against the requirements of the times and the South Korean puppets must discontinue preparations for a war against the fellow countrymen, service for the adventurous war policy of the U.S. imperialists, said the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in its Information No. 578 today.

Recalling that the U.S. Defense Department on November 19 notified congress of its plan to sell military equipment including Cobra attack helicopters worth 356 million dollars to the South Korean puppets and, at the same time, the puppet defence minister of South Korea said at the "National Assembly Defence Committee" on November 20 that a motorized infantry division would be organized and tanks and assault helicopters be secured next year to increase the combat power of the ground force, the information said:

This shows that the moves of the United States and South Korean war maniacs for a war against the North are entering a very reckless stage.

The U.S. imperialists decided to deliver large quantities of lethal weapons to the South Korean puppets at a time when the matters of adopting a North-South nonaggression declaration and reducing armed forces have been placed on the order of the day. This is a high-handed challenge to the Korean people and the world peace-loving peoplep who aspire after the relaxation of military tension and disarmament on the Korean peninsula and an unpardonable crime of laying an artificial obstacle to peace of Korea and its reunification.

South's 'Arms Buildup' Maligned

SK2211054090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—The "defence minister" of South Korea told a meeting of the Defence Committee of the puppet National Assembly Tuesday that it was planned to organize a new motorised infantry division and secure tanks and assault helicopters in order to "increase the combat capabilities of the ground force", according to a report.

This indicates that the South Korean authorities are trying to complete the preparations for a war against the North by stepping up arms buildup, going against the spirit for detente on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification.

Discussions for paving the way for reunification are going on at North-South High-Level Talks with the agenda "On removing the political and military confrontation and realizing multi-faceted cooperation and exchange between the North and the South".

The issues of easing the tension on the Korean peninsula, realizing arms reduction and adopting a nonaggression declaration are high on the agenda at the forthcoming third round of the North-South High-Level Talks.

Turning away from these issues, however, the fascist clique have openly revealed their intention for arms buildup, which proves that they are not interested in dialogue and reunification but are bent on realizing their wild design to invade the North.

U.S. Denounced for Arming South

SK2211073890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON today come out with commentaries denouncing the United States for transferring large quantities of means of war to the South Korean puppets.

The U.S. Defense Department notified Congress on November 19 of its plan to deliver to South Korea military equipment worth 356 million dollars including assault helicopters and anti-tank weapons and said that South Korea was demanding an additional supply of shells of 155mm field guns and TOW anti-tank missiles for stockpile for a war.

The supply of such combat equipment is part of a war plan of the U.S. imperialists to accelerate the modernisation of the South Korean puppet army and increase its attack capacity, the news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says, and continues:

This reveals the bellicose scheme of the U.S. imperialists to increase the war potential of South Korea and drive the puppets to a war against the North.

It is still more grave that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets brought forward a belligerent plan of arms buildup at a time when discussion is under way on the matters of removing military confrontation and adopting a nonaggression declaration at the North-South High-Level Talks.

This cannot be construed otherwise than a perfidy to the dialogue partner and a deliberate attempt to bring the North-South dialogue to a rupture.

Facts show that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are not interested in peace, detente and reunification of the Korean peninsula but are seeking only division, confrontation and war, and that there exists only threat from the South, not "threat from the North", on the Korean peninsula.

MINJU CHOSON says in a signed commentary that if the United States truly wants detente and peace of the Korean peninsula, it should refrain from encouraging the puppets to confrontation and war and take its troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea.

SKNDF Spokesman on Situation in South

SK2311005590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Cho Il-min, representative of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] mission to Pyongyang, on 19 November held a press conference with domestic and foreign reporters at the mission building concerning the No Tae-u fascist military regime that is faced with a crisis in its rule.

With due respect, a portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was placed on the front wall of the press conference room.

Saying that "with the confrontation and struggle between the fascist colonial forces and the democratic patriot forces in South Korea growing more acute with each passing day, the No Tae-u fascist regime's crisis and its revilement have reached an extreme point," Cho Il-min stated: "The No regime's revilement can be observed in many things. However, its revilement finds its central expression in its war against people which has recently been viciously waged. The so-called war against people was coined by the democratic forces that denounced No Tae-u's declaration of war on crimes and violence on 13 October as a full-scale war on people declared by the fascist military clique. Although history has seen many brutal tyrants who wallowed in notoriety in the global community, we have never witnessed, before or now, in the East or West, such a tyrant as No Tae-u who has brutally and openly declared a war against the people and used a bayonet against them."

After asking himself as to what pushed No Tae-u to the point of having no choice but to declare a war against the people, he noted: "As is customary with all the cases of the abnormal developments in the South, No Tae-u's declaration of a war on the people is also due to the confusing and uneasy political situation.

From the outset of the nineties, the No regime's crisis has progressed at an unprecedented pace, on a previously unknown scope. The mass movement that made fresh start in its development at the outset of 1990 is the basic element that has rocked the No regime to its core.

The fabrication of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] last 22 January quickly brought the anti-U.S. and antigovernment sentiment growing among the popular masses from all walks of life, including the youth and students, to an explosion. This sentiment began spreading across the country after being linked with the large-scale workers' strikes in May and their May Day struggle, with the Korea Broadcasting System employees' stubborn struggle, the pan-national struggle staged to denounce and reject the DLP national congress on 9 May, and the movement to inherit the Kwangju resistance launched on its 10th anniversary.

These struggles in the first half of the year have thrown the South's political situation into a crisis unknown since the popular resistance in June 1987. In the second half of the year, the movement, with new tactics different from those of the first half of the year set in motion, is now going in a direction that accelerates the crisis facing the enemy's ruling group. This means that the movement organizations from all walks of life are concentrating efforts on helping the growth of the democratic patriot forces, with particular stress on raising the consciousness of independence in the masses, while firmly keeping the three struggle lines of independence, democracy, and reunification in place.

The No Tae-u ring feels a considerable sense of crisis in the consciousness of independence raised in the masses based on the chuche idea and in the accelerated fostering of the national democratic movement forces.

The intelligence and investigative authorities in the South are now unable to conceal their fear about the catastrophe that may descend upon them if more than a million students and citizens turn out in the streets, believing that the Sixth Republic could possibly collapse even before its term of office expires."

Noting that another element inflating the puppet ring's sense of a catastrophic crisis is the furor for reunification that grows stronger daily among the popular masses, he continued: "The desire of the popular masses in the South, the undercurrent of public sentiment, is to make, without fail, 1995 the year of reunification. The authorities are deeply disturbed by the fact that more than 80 percent of the people are sympathetic with the North's reunification policy and that the first generation of the people hailing from the North who were on the front line of anticommunism are now longing for a visit to the North.

Even the opposition camps are now pandering to public sentiment, urging the North and South to be represented at the United Nations with a single seat and realize reunification by founding a confederal system. The No regime has keenly felt that if the undercurrent of this general trend is left to advance, it will inevitably meet its demise even before its term of office expires. Moreover, U.S. concern about the No regime's future also grows steadily because of the political crisis in the South that grows more serious with each passing day. Intelligence flowing from the United States signals a red light that U.S. politicians' doubt about the degree of public confidence in No Tae-u is rising."

Then, he said that precisely at such a moment, the fascist scheming groups such as the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] are now taking great pains to figure out emergency measures to turn the phase of crisis into a phase of stability and have eventually worked out a scenario of suppression dubbed a war on crimes and violence.

After stressing that this is only a scheme to obliterate the democratic patriot forces under the pretext of uprooting crimes and violence, he noted: "A brief summary of the guidelines on waging a war against the people that has been reported to Chongwadae says: a war on crimes is to be declared in the form of a special presidential declaration; the war on people will be waged when the antigovernment riots show clear signs of escalation; the primary targets in the war on crimes include the activist workers, farmers, and students, and core dissident figures and core religious, academic, and press figures and organizations; the war on crimes is to be waged jointly by the army and police, with the full support and joint forces of all the government power, such as the NSP, the Defense Security Command [DSC], and National Police Headquarters; special mobile inspection task forces will be installed in the provincial police departments and ones in the cities under direct control of the central government authorized to shoot those resisting identification checks, searches and confiscation.

This is the way the wicked scenario for the obliteration of the democratic patriot forces has been written."

Saying that on 4 October, the day the fascist ring was scheming to launch a great oppressive offensive dubbed war on crimes, a disclosure of the DSC's spying on civilians dealt a severe blow to the No regime, Cho Il-min noted that it surprised public sentiment and stirred the general public's indignation.

He said: "No Tae-u hastily replaced Defense Minister and commander of the DSC. However, it was not enough to temper people's antipathy. How deep a sense of crisis has the disclosure of the DSC's spying on the civilians given the No regime can be guessed in the screaming remarks of the new Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku who said that it was only a sergeant that has rocked the country to its bottom.

Cornered, the DSC sent a letter of recommendation to Chongwadae urging the president to take special measures on 13 October, the day a great rally and demonstrations were to be held in Poramae Park to call for the No regime to step down. The letter of recommendation was accepted. Taking the advice from the DSC commander with whom he was on special terms, No Tae-u declared the so-called war on crimes and set in motion a great terror against the people."

He said: "The No regime's war against the people is being carried out with unprecedented tyranny." An average of 60,000 army soldiers and policemen are daily mobilized in an operation designed to obliterate the democratic forces. This is, in fact, akin to a declaration of martial law.

With all the police stations, prisons, and jails in the South filled to capacity with arrested and imprisoned people, temporary prisons are under construction in various places throughout the country. The wicked nature of the No regime's war declared on the people is well expressed in the fact that it is accompanied by the highly-skilled trick of political stratagem.

Last 30 October, the NSP announced the results of an investigation into the so-called South Korean Socialist Workers League. On 10 November, the National Police Headquarters announced the results of an investigation into a fabricated incident called League for Independence, Democracy, and Reunification [Chamintong] incident. However, all these are nothing but a stratagem in the guise of suppressive treatment aimed at sending shocking waves into the psychology of the people.

A survey of the results of an investigation into the so-called Sanomaeng incident shows that it is replete with inconsistent contradicts. Essentially, the organization dubbed Sanomaeng is a lawful organization made public in a gathering in Seoul National University last November. However, the political schemers at the NSP have made it an underground organization of revolutionary socialists. Afterward, the NSP political schemers have, without hesitation, openly stretched out their evil hands of suppression even to the national democratic forces from all walks of life after linking it with the National Council of Trade Unions and the Party of the Masses.

The wicked nature of the great suppressive war against the people is more clearly expressed in the Chamintong incident. In fact, the progressive youth and students in the South, sympathetic with our SKNDF program of independence, democracy, and reunification, have put out and disseminated such leaflets as Road to National Salvation and Plaza of Nation-Saving containing the above program.

Their activity as such has been supported and sympathized with by students and people. This notwithstanding, the fascist clique has not only manufactured the so-called Chamintong incident, but also preposterously charged that it had attempted to build a socialist state through the use of violence after linking it with the North.

This is one of the cases that demonstrates the brazen-faced way the No regime's shopworn ideological political schemes are worked out."

Saying that the fascist clique is running riot in extracting false admissions and false statements from many people taken into custody on charges of involvement in fabricated incidents after subjecting them to brutal torture, he exposed: "The process of investigating the Sanomaeng incident and the Chamintong incident was at once a process of torture and even the results of these investigations that have been made public were nothing but a fabrication made at the end of torture."

He stressed: "It is clear why dictator No Tae-u has started a terrorist war against the people with bayonets. Essentially, his ultimate goal is to prolong his stay in power indefinitely. In other words, the fascist military forces belonging to the Democratic Justice Party faction inside the DLP intends to keep U.S. colonial rule alive in the South through their prolonged stay in office after revising the Constitution to institute a cabinet form of government. The No regime's plot for an indefinite stay in power, however, will never be realized.

The No regime has no future. Its future is bleak. It is in the not-too-distant-future when the No Tae-u military group, a group of running dogs under control of the United States, will meet its end and a new phase of democratization will unfurl.

Our SKNDF and the popular masses in the South are firmly convinced of this and will continue struggling even more tirelessly."

Representative Cho Il-min answered a series of questions raised by the reporters.

Reported Threat Against Chonminnyon Denounced

SK2411050590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 24 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities threaten that they will "take a legal action against" the representatives of the "Alliance for National Democratic Movement" (Chonminnyon) of the South side's promotion headquarters of the pan-national rally [PNR], charging that they participated in tripartite talks of delegates to the PNR from the North and the South and overseas which was held in Berlin, ignoring the authorities' "nonpermission".

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says that the discussion about reunification among fellow countrymen cannot be criminalized and they cannot be an object of "legal action".

The news analyst of the paper says:

The puppets insist on the "unified channel of dialogue" and claim that the dialogue for reunification can be done only by them, not by others. It is a self-righteous act of those in power.

It is motivated by their criminal scheme to abuse the North-South dialogue for their splittist purpose.

The incrimination of contact with the North makes it clear that their customary talk about "freedom" and "openness" is a whopping lie and South Korea is, indeed, a totally closed fascist dark society where only the dictatorial power holds sway.

It is ironical enough for the puppets to describe the participation of Chonminnyon delegates in the Berlin talks as an act of falling a prey to the North's "strategy". Such silly talk can be heard only from the anti-reunification separatists who are afraid of the upsurge of the reunification movement.

If the puppets dare to criminalize the participants in the talks and harshly punish them, going against the people's will of reunification, they will face bitterer denunciation at home and abroad as anti-reunification splittist forces.

Former University Teacher Defects From South

SK2211130590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 22 (KCNA)—Yi Tong-yun, 65, who lived in South Korea, came over recently to the northern half of Korea.

Born in Songchon County, South Pyongan Province, he went to Seoul in September, 1945, to study.

He graduated from a university in Seoul in 1949 and became a teacher. Later he went to France and graduated from a university there in 1967. Unable to find a job, he worked as a cleaner in Paris for ten odd years.

Back to Seoul, he taught at Tanguk University. Dismissed in 1985, he worked as a cleaner in Seoul without a stable job till he came over to the North.

There are now his wife and son in Seoul.

Explaining the motive of his coming over to the North he said he had keenly experienced through his chequered career that the society of the South and the capitalist society full of deception are societies unfit for human habitation where good faith and truth are ruthlessly trampled underfoot.

He stressed:

Avidly reading works of respected President Kim Il-song abroad, I made it my faith that the lines and policies of the great leader are most correct and they are for the people, and came to boundlessly revere him from the bottom of my heart and become convinced that he is a great man produced by our nation and the lodestar of national reunification.

Saying he did not want to live any longer in the cursed society of the South, he stated: I made up my mind to come to the North where there is my home town and the soul of the nation is alive and came here through a third country.

O Chin-u, Military Delegation Arrive in Tehran

SK2711043590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] A military delegation of the DPRK headed by O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau Presidium of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and minister of the People's Armed Forces, on a visit to Iran, yesterday arrived in Tehran by airplane.

At the airport, the flags of the two countries were flying, reflecting the friendship and unity between the peoples of Korea and Iran which were forged in the joint anti-imperialist struggle for independence.

Also hung at the airport were such welcoming slogans as "We warmly welcome the DPRK military delegation!" and "We warmly welcome!"

Mohsen Reza'i, supreme commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; delegations of leaders of the Islamic revolution dispatched to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; the vice foreign minister; the general chief of staff of the Revolutionary Guard Corps; acting supreme commander [as heard] of the Revolutionary Guard Corps; chairman of the military logistic and industrial organ of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; vice minister of the Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; chiefs of Staff of the Navy and Air Force of the Revolutionary Guard Corps; vice general chiefs of staff in the staff office of the General Command of the Iranian Armed Forces; vice general chiefs of staff of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; vice chiefs of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces; the Iranian ambassador to the DPRK; and representatives of the Revolutionary Guard Corps and other personages concerned greeted the delegation at the airport.

The ambassador of our country to Iran, the military attache, and embassy staff members came to the airport.

A ceremony of welcoming the delegation was held at the airport. After the playing of the national anthems of our country and Iran, Comrade O Chin-u, together with Supreme Commander Mohsen Reza'i, inspected the honor guards of the Army, Navy, and the Air Force of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Prior to this, the delegation had a stopover in Urumqi, China, on its way to Iran.

Visits Iranian Supreme Commander

SK2711043890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau Presidium of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and minister of People's Armed Forces, yesterday paid a courtesy call on Mohsen Reza'i, supreme commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Present there were members of the military delegation of our country and ambassador and military attache of our country to Iran.

Also on hand were vice foreign minister of Iran; vice general chiefs of staff of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; vice minister of defense and armed forces logistics; vice general chiefs of staff in the Staff Office of the General Command of the Iranian Armed Forces and other personages concerned.

Talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere in the meeting.

Lays Wreath at Khomeyni's Tomb

SK2711044090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Text] The DPRK military delegation headed by Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau Presidium of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and minister of People's Armed Forces, yesterday laid wreath at Ayatollah Khomeyni's tomb.

Mohsen Reza'i, supreme commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and vice general chiefs of staff, and the ambassador of our country to Iran and embassy officials attended this event.

Also present there were several hundreds of citizens of Tehran and members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

After laying a wreath, Comrade O Chin-u signed the visitors' book.

O Chin-u Talks With Counterpart

SK2711044990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] The second round of tete-a-tete talks was held yesterday in Tehran between Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau Presidium of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and minister of People's Armed Forces, and Mohsen Reza'i, general commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

The talks proceeded in an amicable atmosphere.

O Chin-u, Group Attend Banquet

SK2711085690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] On 25 November, (Mohammad Mahmuri Argi), representative of leaders of the Islamic revolution who was dispatched to the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, arranged a banquet for the military delegation from our country.

Members of the our country's military delegation, headed by Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau Presidium of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and minister of the People's Armed Forces, our country's ambassador to Iran, and our embassy's military attache, were invited to the banquet.

In attendance at the banquet were the acting general commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps; the general chief of staff of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps; the chairman of the (Musanja District) Committee; the vice foreign minister; the acting representative of the leaders of the Islamic revolution dispatched to the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps; the vice general chiefs of staff of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps; the minister of defense and armed forces logistics; the chairman of the military logistics and industry organ of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, and other appropriate personages.

The banquet proceeded in a warm atmosphere.

Yon Hyong-muk Back in Beijing After Local Trip

SK2811043490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Yon Hyong-muk, Administration Council premier of our country, and his entourage, who are paying an official goodwill visit to China, today returned to Beijing by plane after completing a tour of local areas.

Qi Yuangjin, PRC metallurgical industry minister, and PRC Ambassador to our country Zheng Yi, returned with the premier and his entourage.

PRC Vice Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan, and other personages greeted the premier and his entourage at the airport.

Upon leaving Guangzhou, the entourage was seen off at the airport by Kuang Ji, vice governor of the Guangdong Provincial People's Government, (Xu Ganhui), vice mayor of the Guangzhou City People's Government, and others concerned.

Prior to this, our country's Administration Council premier and his entourage were invited to a banquet arranged by the Guangdong Provincial People's Government.

Yon Bids Farewell to Li Peng

SK2811032290 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Premier Yon Hyong-muk of the DPRK State Administration Council, who is on an official goodwill visit to China, bade farewell to Premier Li Peng of the PRC State Council at his lodging on 27 November. At the meeting, a conversation was held in a warm and cheerful atmosphere. Also present at the meeting were the premier's entourage; Wu Xueqian, vice premier of the PRC State Council; Qi Yuanjing, minister of metallurgical industry; Qi Huaiyuan, vice foreign minister; Wang Wendong, vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade; and Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country.

Premier Li Peng gladly accepted Premier Yon Hyong-muk's invitation to him to visit our country at an appropriate time.

Yon Meets Li Tieying in Beijing

SK2811032490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Premier Yon Hyong-muk of the DPRK State Administration Council, who is on an official goodwill visit to China, met Li Tieying, state councillor of China, in Beijing on 27 November. At the meeting, conversation was held in a friendly atmosphere. Also present at the meeting were the premier's entourage; Qi Yuanjing, minister of the metallurgical industry of China; Qi Huaiyuan, vice foreign minister; Wang Wendong, vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade; and Zheng Yi, PRC ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country.

State Councillor Li Tieying arranged a banquet for Premier Yon Hyong-muk of the State Administration Council and his entourage.

KCNA Reviews 28 Nov Pyongyang Press

SK2811060890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—All newspapers here today report that the great leader President Kim Il-song gave an on-the-spot guidance to the Ponghwa Cooperative Farm in Kangdong County, Pyongyang Municipality.

Carried in the press is a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the Military Committee of National Salvation and head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the national independence of the Mauritanian people.

A MINJU CHOSON article says that President Kim Il-song put his heart with deep love into the supply of good shoes to our people.

Dailies inform the readers that thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea were conveyed to agricultural officials and working people of Chungsan County, South Pyongan Province, for breeding many heads of pigs through a mass movement in hearty response to the party's policy of stockbreeding and sending them to People's Army units and grand construction sites.

Economic news of the press includes reports that big successes have been registered in the domain of iron and steel making all over the country under the Ministry of Metal Industry and a capacity expansion project is being energetically accelerated at the Taedaeri Mine, Nampo Municipality, a production base of phosphorus headings.

NODONG SINMUN devotes nearly one whole page to an article entitled "Imperialists' 'Defence of Human Rights' Is Falsity and Deception," which stresses that the imperialists' trumpeting about "defence of human rights" is a crafty ruse to beautify and embellish capitalism and disorganize socialism from within.

Dailies report about the sojourn of the premier of the DPRK Administration Council in China and stay of the military delegation of our country in Iran.

Dailies convey an account of the unveiling ceremony of the statue of hero Kim Kwang-chol at the Kim Kwang-chol Senior Middle School. Hero Kim Kwang-chol was an officer of the Korean People's Army who saved the members of his platoon at the cost of his life when the platoon was faced with an unexpected danger in training.

The press reports that the Olympic Committee of the DPRK published the list of the North side's delegation to the North-South sports talks scheduled at Panmunjom from November 29.

Given in the press are accounts of the second working-level contact for the third North-South High-Level Talks and of the second contact between working officials of the North and the South over the participation of the Pyongyang national musical troupe in the "traditional concert for reunification seeing 1990 out" due in Seoul.

Commentaries of the press say that no agreement was reached on the issue of adopting a North-South nonaggression declaration and other issues owing to the evasion by the South side at the second working-level contact for the preparation of the third round of North-South High-Level Talks.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary lashing out at the open declaration on the continuation of the "Team Spirit" war exercises published by the South Korean puppets and their U.S. imperialist masters.

Conveyed in the press are an account of the joint air strike exercise for a preemptive strike at the northern half of Korea staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and articles of foreign publications denouncing the U.S. imperialist moves for the permanent division of Korea.

Taking space in the press is a statement released by the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) in denunciation of the anti-national, anti-reunification crimes of the No Tae-u group in hindering the normalisation of the DPRK-Japan relations and seeking a permanent division of the country.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea answered a question put by a KCNA reporter on the signing of the treaty on the reduction of conventional weapons in Europe, says the press.

It is reported in the press that Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China, toured Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the Kenyan president denounced the interventionist moves of the Western countries, a new party named "league of communists-movement for Yugoslavia" was founded in Yugoslavia, a working talks was held between the foreign ministers of China and the Soviet Union and Soviet republics signed treaties and agreements on mutual recognition of their state sovereignty.

The press observes the 30th anniversary of the independence of Mauritania.

NODONG SINMUN introduces changes in Urumqi, a border city of China.

Editorial Stresses Necessity of Plans, Discipline

SK2411124790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0010 GMT 19 Nov 90

[NODONG SINMUN 19 November editorial: "Let Us Thoroughly Map Out Plans and Discipline in all Fields of the National Economy"]

[Text] Thoroughly mapping out plans and discipline is an important work to which we should firmly adhere in order to more properly fulfill the decisions made at the 17th plenary session of the sixth party Central Committee and to brilliantly fulfill the national economy assignments for this year.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: All plants, workshops, and work teams should thoroughly map out the discipline to fulfill assignments by the day, by the month, and by the quarter without fail.

The socialist economy is both a planned economy and a balanced economy. In a socialist society, all fields of the national economy are closely related with each other. Therefore, if any domain or unit breaks its plan and discipline, then this will have an effect upon other domains. Thus, production will not be normalized and the entire economic development will be impeded.

Furthermore, as the scale of production is matchlessly growing larger and the level of specialization and cooperation in production is growing higher, the relations among units of the national economy and between enterprises and plants are growing closer. Thus, strengthening plans and discipline is indispensable to the economic development of socialism.

This year is the fourth year of the Third Seven-Year Plan, the year of hope and struggle. In addition, this year is the first step into the 1990s. In the 17th plenary session of the sixth party Central Committee, which was held early this year, it was stated that the entire people should effect a great revolutionary upsurge once again in socialist construction by vigorously launching the fullest possible mass movement for production and conservation with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

We should at any cost brilliantly carry out this year's economic plan, adhering to the struggle for production and conservation. By so doing, production will be able to be normalized at a high level at the beginning of next year. Thus, a new pace for the 1990s will be created, thus enabling constant advancement to push ahead.

What is important in brilliantly fulfilling this year and in normalizing production at a high level at the beginning of next year is to thoroughly map out plans and discipline. Only when plans and discipline are firmly mapped out in all fields of the national economy and when all plans are fulfilled without fail, can the entire country be prosperous, can universal socialist construction be vigorously promoted, and can the people's living standard be enhanced every day.

What is more important in thoroughly mapping out plans and discipline is that our functionaries and working people acquire a correct consciousness about the plans and highly display the principle of unconditionally fulfilling them.

The state's plans are the party's instructions and the state's law. The planned tasks assigned to domains, units, and each person are revolutionary tasks given by the party. Thus, everyone should be held responsible for fulfilling the state plans before the party and the state. The phenomena of taking a shilly-shally attitude toward fulfilling the plans cannot be allowed.

By brimming over with the verve of high loyalty to the party and the leader and by having a high law-abiding spirit, all functionaries and working people should struggle to thoroughly and unconditionally fulfill the plans assigned to their own domains, units, and themselves, without even the slightest deviation or pretext.

Accurately fulfilling the plans by the day, by the month, and by the indicator is an important demand for thoroughly mapping out plans and discipline. Even if the plans and indicators, as presented to us, are small, we should not make light of them.

If we make light of them because they are small indicators and delay fulfilling plans, this can have a great effect upon other domains. Therefore, functionaries and working people should never take the attitude of overestimating time for the completion of work at the beginning of the month and then the attitude of hastily completing the work toward the end of the month. In addition, they should never take the attitude of what cannot be completed this month will be done next month.

All functionaries and working people, in upholding the party's intention to normalize production at a high level, should resolutely launch a constant struggle. By so doing, they should normalize production at a high level at the beginning of the month; fulfill work without considering the indicators, whether large or small; and complete all planned indicators assigned by the party by the day, by the ten-day period, and by the month.

In particular, the electricity industry, the coal industry, the metal industry, and other units which our party currently emphasizes should display such an ethos.

Meticulously launching a struggle to complete plans and properly guiding the struggle are an important key for thoroughly mapping out plans and discipline. All plans and indicators are closely connected with the unitary state plan according to schedule and domains. This does not mean that all problems can be settled. Dovetailing a plan is a basis for fulfilling it.

By being aware that their own meticulous skill and high revolutionary spirit can be further displayed in correctly dovetailing all indicators and in completing them, economic guidance functionaries should responsibly organize operations and guidance to fulfill plans.

Functionaries should go down to the production scene as required by the Taean work system, specifically grasp the process of completing plans, learn a method based on producers and the masses, and settle problems that arise as befitting the master.

What is important in correctly guiding the process of completing plans and in guaranteeing conditions for them is the work assigned to commissions and ministries of the administration council and to functionaries of provincial administrative and economic guidance committees. The commissions and ministries of the administrative council and functionaries of the provincial administrative and economic guidance committees should correctly acquire production management systems, according to how fiercely the struggle is launched.

In addition, they should properly launch operations for cooperation from the standpoint of the party and the state. They should in a mobilized manner conduct the work of organizing and providing guidance and supplies for fulfilling the plans. By so doing, production in any domain and unit of the national economy can be normalized at a high level and the plans can be fulfilled without fail.

At the present, the important issue in economic organization work for fulfilling this year's assignments is to properly conduct the task of properly guaranteeing raw materials and equipment. Functionaries of all units of the national economy should always grasp the situation of production and equipment consumption, and should responsibly guarantee raw materials and equipment as required by the Taean work system.

In particular, functionaries in the equipment supply domains should deeply be aware of the importance of their position, ensure the plans and required materials in advance, and supply them for production. By so doing, they should see to it that functionaries in plants and enterprises devote themselves to production.

Along with this, organs of production guidance, plants, and enterprises should substantially and normally conduct the task of summarizing and evaluating the practice of a plan at a high level.

Under the economic activities in which all things are actually connected with each other, there is no promotion of unmapped construction and no manufacture of unmapped goods.

Functionaries in plants and enterprises of all units of the national economy, in organs, and in cooperatives should acquire a correct consciousness about the state plans, and should firmly map out centralized plans and discipline. Only when the control of political work, which is specifically and carefully organized, is guaranteed, can plans and discipline be accurately mapped out and can all work be completed properly.

Functionaries in commissions and ministries of the administration council and in production guidance organs and control organs should further strengthen administrative and legal control in keeping with their duties. The planning organs, including the State Planning Committee, should strengthen control over various economic parts that have close relations with other parts, and they should actively promote the completion of plans without even the slightest deviation.

Economic construction is the most revolutionary task assigned to the party. There can be no party work apart from economic work. The work to map out plans and discipline is the work of fulfilling the national economy—the party's instructions and state law—among functionaries and working people, without fail accurately and in a timely fashion. Economic construction means working with the people to eliminate out-dated ideology, including departmentalism.

The party organizations at every level in the national economy should firmly adhere to party work and economic work; support the process of completing this year's assignments; have functionaries, producers, and the masses become deeply aware of the legal and instructional nature of plans; and vigorously inspire them to complete the plans. By so doing, the party organizations at every level should ensure that all party members and working people thoroughly carry out assigned plans, brimming over with the verve of confidence and bravery and the verve of a high revolutionary spirit and militant strength.

South Korea

N-S Agree on Number in Music Delegation

SK2811084290 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0800 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] In today's contact held in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom between liaison officials concerning the year-end traditional music concert for reunification, the North and South have agreed that North Korea's performance delegation will be made up of 33 people including three reporters and that the National Theater and the Arts Center will be the venues for performance.

In today's contact, the two sides have agreed that the presentations will be purely traditional national music having no political undertone and the North Korean performers will stay in Walker Hill Hotel.

The North and South have agreed to discuss the itinerary of the North Korean performers and how many performances they will give during their stay in Seoul at the fourth contact scheduled for 3 December. The two sides are expected to exchange programs of performance, names of performance groups, and a memorandum on guaranteeing personal safety at the next round of contact.

North Musicians Accept Invitation

SK2111122490 Seoul YONHAP in English 1150 GMT 21 Nov 90

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 21 (YONHAP)—North Korea's Central Committee of Musicians Union on Wednesday informed Seoul of its willingness to send a group of 50 people to a year-end Korean traditional music festival slated for Dec. 9-15 in Seoul.

Kim Won-kyun, chairman of the committee, in a letter addressed to Prof. Hwang Pyong-ki, director of the Seoul Traditional Arts Troupe, said he was welcoming his proposal to hold a "unification" music festival in Seoul and considering sending a 50-member delegation to the event, officials at the Secretariat of South-North dialogue here said.

Kim also proposed that the two sides have a preliminary contact at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Committee in the Truce Village of Panmunjom at 10 a.m. Monday to discuss practical procedures for the North Korean delegation's visit to Seoul.

The letter was a reply to Prof. Hwang's invitation addressed to the North Korean committee on Nov. 14. Hwang, chief organizer of the festival, had invited 30 North Korean musicians and reporters to the event.

Hwang and a group of South Korean musicians recently attended a pan-national concert in Pyongyang organized by Germany-based Korean composer Yun i-sang, marking the first ever inter-Korean exchange of musicians since the division of the peninsula in the 1940s.

Soviet Sparks Nuclear-Free Korea Discussion

SK2811034290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Nov 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Bid for Nuclear-Free Korea"]

[Text] Debate over the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula has come to the surface of late as part of arms reduction proposals by South and North Korea. The question, raised as a topic by strategists and scholars concerned, has now become a subject of formal discussion by the government and the political parties, thus drawing attention of the public as well.

The North Korean regime first took issue with the presence of the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea, linking it to its signing of a nuclear non-proliferation agreement. Pyongyang argued that it was ready to sign the accord, if an on-the-spot inspection of the American nuclear arms or facilities were permitted.

But the issue is complicated, as the existence of U.S. nuclear weapons has been neither confirmed nor denied by the Korean and American governments. Accordingly, the denuclearization dispute has developed just on the assumption of its presence here in the South.

The matter was again touched off recently by remarks of Vadim Medvedev, a Soviet Presidential Council member, who paid a visit to Seoul last week. During his meeting with Korean politicians, businessmen and scholars, Medvedev asserted that the Korean peninsula should be nuclear free for the sake of peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region.

The Soviet official, an influential aide to President Mikhail Gorbachev, went on to reveal that his government has consulted with Seoul and Washington on turning the Korean peninsula into a non-nuclear zone, noting that the Soviet Union is willing to become a guarantor to this, along with other nuclear powers.

With these there is perhaps no reason to reject the denuclearization of Korea as a subject of negotiations between the countries concerned, as part of the current world-wide arms reduction talks between the two superpowers and Eastern and Western blocs. At the same time, it is doubtful whether the Seoul government has been consulted adequately in connection with this process.

Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, subsequently, came up with a negative response to the Soviet proposal, saying that it is impossible for the surrounding powers to guarantee security in consideration of the political situation in Northeast Asia.

Marking a sharp contrast with the foreign minister's statement, main opposition leader Kim Tae-chung contended that the denuclearization bid should be given positive consideration, on the grounds that this will help ease tension on the peninsula and counter a Pyongyang excuse for producing nuclear weapons.

Kim shares Medvedev's view that the measure would contribute to stability and peace in Korea. But Kim, who has often expressed progressive views with regard to North Korea, seems to have virtually ignored the fact this means agreeing with Pyongyang's call for the withdrawal of nuclear arms from the South.

Certainly, a nuclear-free Korea is most ideal and a desirable goal in the long run, but reality is not compatible with it, insofar as North Korea's bellicose strategy against the South remains unchanged. In this connection, we are inclined to stand behind Foreign Minister Choe's remarks that denuclearization itself cannot be opposed but that nuclear weapons are a war deterrent.

The nuclear-free zone proposal is surely fascinating but risky under the present circumstances in that Pyongyang has yet to cast off its long-standing strategy of the reunification of Korea by force or revolutionary means. At the same time, the matter should not be subject to haggling by the United States and the Soviet Union over global strategy in possible disregard of the peculiar situation on the Korean peninsula.

Korean Fighter Program Review To Begin 'Soon'

SK2711040490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] A special committee to review the multibillion-dollar Korean Fighter Program (KFP) will soon be set up under the Headquarters of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the committee will decide the "direction" of the program by early next year, the Defense Ministry said yesterday. The ministry made the points in a report submitted to lawmakers on the National Assembly Defense Committee on the first day of an eight-day parliamentary inspection of the administration.

The committee will reevaluate the potential for North Korea to increase its air force capabilities and also analyze the military situation on and around the Korean peninsula, the ministry said.

In late October, Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said the ministry would review the entire program, which involves the purchase of 120 F/A-18 Hornets from McDonnell Douglas, because of the increased price. In the report, the ministry said the price of the program was about $5 billion at the time of Seoul's selection of the F/A-18 over the F-16 of General Dynamics lastDecember, but in October this year the price was $6.2 billion.

The cost of the KFP has risen far more than expected, while the 1989-1991 budget for improvement of the Korean Armed Forces has seen a sharp decrease, the ministry said in the report. The ministry said that the cut in the 1991 defense budget will delay several projects and decrease employment in the defense industry. The ministry requested 3,226 billion won for next year's defense budget but only 2,603 billion won was allotted, the ministry said. It said the budget cut may make it difficult to achieve a full self-defense capability by 1995.

Meanwhile, the ministry said it plans to expand its Military Supplies Bureau in December and rename it the headquarters of Military Supplies.

Inspection of Defense Ministry Raises Fee Issue

SK2711042990 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 27 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] The Defense Ministry has maintained that mutual on-the-spot inspection of nuclear facilities between South and North Korea will be possible if North Korea produces evidence of having abandoned its scheme to communize the South by force. In that event, the ministry authorities said yesterday it is necessary for the government to conduct advance consultation with Washington, citing the United States' time honored practice of not confirming nor denying nuclear arms stockpiles in foreign countries.

The ministry's position was bared in a report during the parliamentary inspection of the ministry yesterday.

During the same inspection session, Rep. Kwon No-kap of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy claimed that the ministry incurred a loss of $5.62 million in the purchase of 24 CH-47D helicopters from Boeing of the United States. According to his argument, the money was paid in commission to a trade agency. If the ministry made a direct deal, the payment might not have been necessary, he claimed. Rep. Kwon alleged that the ministry paid $3.73 million in commission to a trade agency with the initial purchase of six CH-47D helicopters in June, 1987.

When the government bought the remaining 18 copters in second and third batches after less than two years, their prices increased by 8.2 and 33.3 percent, respectively, compared with that for the initial buying, Rep. Kwon argues. He said that the deal raised suspicions into the supply of political funds behind the purchase.

In response to the allegation, the ministry said that the purchase was legal in every aspect. According to the ministry, 12 CH-47D helicopters were purchased through an agency in 1988. About $3.3 million or 1.9 percent of the total bill was paid to the agency by Boeing. The agency promotes the business of Boeing.

The alleged commission fee is a matter between Boeing and the trading agency and the government has nothing to do with it, the minister said, claiming that the government had never paid commission fees for the deal. Minister Yi added that the price hikes of helicopters compared with the initial buying was due to auxiliary equipment for them such as machine guns and launching mechanism.

Defense Security Command Changes Postponed

SK2211025690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] Plans to restructure the Defense Security Command (DSC), the military intelligence agency under fire for spying on civilians, will not be ready until the middle of next year, Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said Tuesday.

There is mounting chorus of voices calling for the function of the DSC to be curtailed or for the agency to be scrapped, but its budget has just been increased. This was because the budget was drafted before the spy scandal broke and the government decided to clip the

DSC's wings, Yi said in testimony before the National Assembly Defense Committee.

Daily Analyzes U.S. Chamber of Commerce Report

SK2511074290 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 23 Nov 90 p 7

[Article by reporter Yang Chae-kol]

[Text] It has been learned that the recent trade friction between the ROK and the United States is due to the report that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Korea made and distributed to various circles in the United States.

The report, entitled "The Reality of the ROK Protectism" and consisting of 24 pages, points out in detail the contents of the following: the campaign to expel extravagance, import liberalization, the distribution industry's system, the financial industry, special consumption taxes, and the tobacco issue.

The report describes those contents by drawing five pictures and adding articles as evidence. The WALL STREET JOURNAL and FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW carried some of this.

A picture in the report comparing the sales of the U.S. Ford Company's Mercury Sable and the sales of Hyundai's Grandeur shows that the Mercury Sable sales have been decreasing since the campaign to expel extravagance was launched.

It was written under the picture that "The Sable is the most successful imported auto in Korea. The Grandeur's price is higher than the Sable's."

It was also written beside the picture comparing the sales of the two kinds of autos that "The sales of Sables had been excellent since they were introduced in October, 1989, and the sales of Sables were increasing early this year. However, since the report criticizing those who have imported cars was issued, businessmen who had imported cars were afraid of the threat of tax investigation.

In mid-May, Kia Motors, which has been engaged in importing Sables and selling them, stopped advertising and ordering them.

Last year, 12616 Hyundai Grandeurs were sold. This is 24 times the sales of Sables (532 units). The sales of Grandeurs, sweeping the deluxe auto market, are constantly increasing, thus occupying four percent of the entire auto market.

Even though Grandeurs are more expensive than Sables, the ROK media do not criticize those Koreans who buy Grandeurs."

No Tae-u Interviewed by SEOUL SINMUN

SK2411011190 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 22 Nov 90 pp 3-4

[Special interview with President No Tae-u by Yi Chong-yon, chief of the Editorial Department of SEOUL SINMUN, at Chongwadae on 21 November on the occasion of the daily's 45th founding anniversary]

[Excerpts] [Yi Chong-yon] Much more rapid progress has been achieved in the northern policy than many people expected. The Korean-Soviet summit talks in San Francisco in June and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and the Soviet Union in late September came about far earlier than we had expected. What do you expect through your visit to the Soviet Union in December?

[No Tae-u] My visit to the Soviet Union will serve us as a historic stride of surmounting the high wall of the cold war system which has inflicted division, war, and tremendous tragedies and sufferings on us over the past half a century. It will also serve as an occasion to clarify to the peoples of the two countries and the world that diplomatic relations and friendly and cooperative relations with the Soviet Union, a neighboring country, which had been ruptured for 86 years, have been completely restored. Furthermore, my visit will be an epoch-making occasion to achieve peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

President Gorbachev and myself will exchange profound views on the international situation on the Korean peninsula, in Northeast Asia, and the rest of the world as well as on relations between the two countries.

A basis for developing relations and promoting cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union will be laid with my visit to the Soviet Union as an occasion. Accords on trade, investment guarantee, the prevention of double taxation, scientific and technological cooperation, and aviation—matters which have been discussed between the two countries—will be signed.

On this basis of exchange and cooperation, substantial relations between the two countries will be developed. [passage omitted]

[Yi] Do you have any intention of sounding out whether President Gorbachev has a mind to visit North and South Korea at the same time when you meet him?

[No] My visit to the Soviet Union was planned because not only our side but also the Soviet side required it. My answer to your question is that I can invite the Soviet President to visit our country, but that it is unnatural in terms of etiquette and diplomatic practice to ask him whether he intends to visit North Korea. Therefore, such a matter will not be discussed between us.

However, President Gorbachev's visit to North Korea after contacts with it according to his intention is a different matter.

[Yi] The pressure of the U.S. Congress to increase our assistance in connection with the Gulf situation, trade frictions between Korea and the United States, and other issues have recently shadowed traditional friendly relations between the two countries. Do you not think that contrary to rapid progress in Korean-Soviet relations, Korean-U.S. relations are getting estranged?

[No] The trade volume between Korea and the United States reached $36.5 billion last year. Partial frictions are to occur in relations of large trade volume. It is a mistake to view these frictions as an indication of estrangement. We are solving this problem in bilateral relations through smooth consultations between the two countries.

We support the UN resolution and the U.S. firm policy in connection with the Gulf situation. The United States appreciates our assistance.

In many ways, the United States has actively supported our northern policy. The recent ministerial-level Security Consultative Meeting between Korea and the United States in Washington reaffirmed the solid cooperative system between the two countries.

The Korean-U.S. summit talks on four occasions over the past two years since I became president indicate that relations between the two countries are unprecedentedly favorable. At this moment, there is no fundamental problem causing estrangement in Korean-U.S. relations. [passage omitted]

[Yi] An agreement to open trade missions was reached between Korea and China after the Asian games. Also, other moves to improve relations between the two countries have been notable. When do you think will Korean-Chinese relations be normalized?

[No] The agreement to open trade missions between Korea and China served as an event to develop cooperative relations between the two countries a step higher.

I am convinced that if the tenor of Korean-Chinese cooperation continues in this way, it will not be long before relations between the two countries are normalized. However, we will not rush to achieve this by taking the stance of China into account.

[Yi] The third round of North-South High-Level Talks are slated for 11 December in Seoul. In the wake of this, you will visit the Soviet Union. Do you think that the North Korean delegation will come to Seoul under this situation? Do you not think that rapid progress in Korean-Soviet relations may hamper the improvement of North-South relations?

[No] Holding the third round of North-South High-Level Talks was agreed on between the North and South. Implementing an agreement is a basis for building up confidence between the North and South. We look forward to the North Korean delegation's coming to Seoul. There is no reason for it not to come to Seoul. Relations with a third country should not affect North-South relations. It is understandable for North Korea to feel displeased over the establishment of diplomatic relations between us and the Soviet Union, its traditional ally. However, North Korea should correctly recognize the grand tenor of reform which is changing the global order. No one can reverse this grand tenor of change. It is desirable for the development of North Korea and the future of the nation that the North accommodate this affirmative change putting an end to the cold war and adopt realistic lines toward North-South relations. Through the 7 July declaration, I made clear that I do not object to North Korea's improving relations with our traditional friendly nations as we push ahead with the northern policy. North Korea can choose its path to become a responsible member of the international community.

I predict that North Korea will soon adopt a realistic policy needed for its own prosperity and development.

[Yi] Do you plan to push ahead with the simultaneous entry of the North and South into the United Nations during this session?

[No] There is no change in our government's stand toward UN membership.

That is, the matter of entering the United Nations is a question between the United Nations and us who want its membership. It is a separate question from the North-South reunification issue.

Proceeding from the stand that it is desirable for North and South Korea to enter the United Nations together amid the best wishes of the international community and play a just role as responsible members of the international community, we have requested North Korea to enter it with us through North-South High-Level Talks and working-level talks. However, North Korea has not changed its attitude.

North Korea's entry into the United Nations with us will be conducive to building confidence and easing tension between the North and South. Also, it will contribute to developing a North-South partnership and promoting the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Nevertheless, if North Korea does not intend to or has not prepared to enter the United Nations, we alone should separately enter it first. We will decide on the timing of our entry by taking the situation at home and abroad into consideration.

[Yi] A poll conducted after the factional dispute of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] shows that a considerable number of the respondents support the resignation of the three Kims. In this connection, will you talk about what you think of an assertion on a change of generations in the political arena?

[No] The exploits and mistakes of a politician in a democratic society are judged by the people through the election system.

It is not desirable to raise extremely arbitrary and radical assertions on the political fate of specific persons who have contributed to the development of the state and democracy.

The matter of supplying the political arena with new faces and changing generations of politicians should be settled by the people and party members through elections and party conventions.

These arguments indicate that the people and party members strongly aspire for a new political climate. All politicians should regard these assertions and reflect on themselves in a humble manner.

[Yi] You have said that the next presidential candidate of the DLP will be decided within one year before the expiration of your term (February 1993). Does this mean that the candidate will be nominated before February 1992? Can you give us a more specific timing?

[No] I cannot say the exact date of nomination. When you look at the practice in foreign countries, I think that it is proper to nominate the candidate within one year before the end of my term.

In the United States, for example, many figures are much talked about as candidates, but the final candidates are evaluated by the press and the people before nomination and decided by party members.

In view of this, I think that our candidate can emerge sometime within one year before the end of my term at the earliest.

The DLP, though a gigantic ruling party, should reply to many demands of the times. Since it was founded through the merger of three heterogeneous parties, it takes time to achieve homogeneity.

If the next presidential candidate emerges too early, confusion in ruling or the phenomenon of lame duck, about which all people are concerned, may occur. The occurrence of this phenomenon amid the people's aspirations for establishing a legal order and public authority will, after all, cause unrest among the people. Discussing the question of the next presidential candidate is not desirable in this context. Therefore, I maintain that the question should be discussed some time one year before the end of my term. [passage omitted]

[Yi] It will be two years on 23 November since former President Chon Tu-hwan sought shelter at Paektam Temple. What do you think of this long seclusion of the former president?

[No] Both from a personal and an official stand, I think that it is not desirable for my predecessor to have been secluded in a remote mountainous area for a long period of time. I have directly and indirectly asked him to stop his life in seclusion and return to a normal life as a citizen. However, it seemed that he strongly intended to further cope with something there with his own perceptions of history and the people. With two years passing since his seclusion and the cold winter at hand, I am very much distressed. I hope that he will be able to return free in a way that the people also may not feel any burden. [passage omitted]

Former Chochongnyon Official Interviewed

SK2611024290 Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean Nov 90 pp 332-345

[Article by WOLGAN CHOSON reporter Kim Tonghyon: "The Republic of Poverty and Darkness"]

[Text] **Agricultural Expert With a Background as an Electrician**

Mr. Yi U-hong, 70, once served as a lecturer at North Korea's Wonsan Agricultural College. We interviewed him on 24 September 1990. Yi was visiting Seoul from Japan, where he has written two books which have been published simultaneously in Korea, "Republic of Poverty," (Kananui Konghwaguk) which reveals the realities about agriculture in North Korea, and "Republic of Darkness," (Odumui Konghwaguk) which does the same for North Korean industry. As a member of Chochongnyon [pro-DPRK organization of Korean residents in Japan], Yi visited North Korea 11 times from 1981 to 1985, staying for longer and shorter periods, and acquired a keen grasp of North Korea's economic realities. His books use practical examples to elucidate the backwardness of North Korea's agriculture and industry and to highlight its structural problems.

Yi U-hong, whose home of record is North Kyongsang Province's Kimchon, was born in 1921 in Mizusaka outside Nagoya in Japan's Mie Prefecture. After graduating from High School No. 8 in 1940, Yi worked as an electrician at the Akano Factory of Aichi Airlines. After liberation in 1945, Yi held a number of offices in the Chochongnyon: director of foreign affairs at Mie Prefecture's Hisai Branch, secretary-general for the people's war at the Hisai Branch, and director of political affairs of Mie Prefecture's Zushi Branch. Immediately after liberation, Yi peddled clothes and rice on the streets. Later, he pursued a program of self-instruction in agriculture while operating the Mie General Agency of the Apple Producers' Cooperative Union from 1958 to 1978.

North Korea awarded Yi U-hong a medal for meritorious service in 1973. Yi's trips to North Korea were motivated by a desire to introduce to the North a special hot-house cultivation technique for orchards. Yi served as a guest lecturer at Wonsan Agricultural College in North Korea for a year, starting in the spring of 1984, and tried to build one of the special hot-houses. He ran into the inflexible thinking of the party's bureaucrats, however, and encountered the reality of North Korea's shortage of materials. Yi returned to Japan after a year without succeeding at his project.

After his return, Yi published a 95-part series in the Japanese-language UNIFICATION DAILY NEWS on what he had seen and heard in the North. The series was titled, "The Lost Economy" and appeared between September 1987 and March 1988. His more-recently published books are based on the series.

[Kim Tong-hyon] Did you intend to write about your experiences in North Korea when you first got there?

[Yi U-hong] No. Even as late as May 1981 when I debarked from Samjiyon and set foot on North Korean soil for the first time I had no intention either to criticize North Korea or to write books about her. I have a strong inquisitive streak in my character, and my personality is such that once I put my hand to something, I cannot put it aside until I have mastered it. If the electric washing machine in my house breaks down, for example, my habit is to take it apart piece by piece until I find exactly what went wrong. I guess you could put this propensity in a good light and say I have a passion for learning; or you could put it in a bad light and say I am simple-minded. While I was in North Korea living either at a hotel or in a private home, I made it a practice to ask questions about things I had doubts about. Then I would write down the responses and go out and ask again. My scribblings became a kind of journal, and later the journal was a big help in writing my books.

[Kim] What motivated you to write about your experiences in North Korea in the UNIFICATION DAILY NEWS?

[Yi] Frankly, I got mad because the realities I had seen in North Korea were being described in Japan in ways that departed from the truth. I found that accounts written by intellectuals who had visited North Korea for only a short time contained many particularly exaggerated appraisals of the country. In the mid-1980s, Yamaguchi Toshiko, a member of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] of the Diet's House of Councilors, visited North Korea, and when he returned he appeared on a television program and spoke for about an hour on North Korea. I watched the show and just got mad as the devil. Japanese who have been repatriated to the North always speak as if those North Koreans up there all live well and happily. I mean really what did these people observe? It is shameful. What did they do, put their eyes in their pockets while they were up there? I believe that if we are ever to achieve reunification, the North and South must know each other in detail, and I hope my books contribute to that process."

Building Terraced Fields Ruined North Korean Agriculture

Once Yi U-hong decided that he had to get his experiences into writing, he approached the UNIFICATION DAILY NEWS's Chief Editorial Writer Chong Ik-u, and explained his proposal. Chong helped Yi arrange the series that appeared in the UNIFICATION DAILY NEWS. Says Chong: "We ran Mr. Yi's stuff almost as he wrote it, touching up his sentences here and there only when they were hard to understand." Mr. Yi U-hong had been a member of Chochongnyon since 1945, but it was in 1981 when he made his first visit to North Korea.

[Yi] It is not easy to visit North Korea if you have no relatives living there. In 1981 the chairman of Chochongnyon's Mie Prefecture Headquarters was replaced, and I was picked to be chairman. Higher headquarters wanted me to visit the fatherland, so I went to North Korea for the first time.

Yi visited only Wonsan and Pyongyang on that first trip. His visit was short, but he says that even then he was able to see the realities there, albeit only indistinctly. Yi was particularly shocked to see that terraced fields had been built on the sides of virtually every hill and mountain in the country.

[Yi] Before I visited North Korea I had read propaganda materials which used glowing terms to describe the terracing: So spectacular is the project that no amount of praise is too much. I was impressed. But when I got there and looked around, I began to realize that building the terraced fields was a major culprit behind the failure of North Korean agriculture.

In the early 1970s about the time that Kim Chong-il emerged on the scene, the North Korean leadership directed the "building of terraced fields on the mountains of the entire country." The purpose was to utilize the wasted mountain sides for agricultural purposes by building terraced fields and planting them with crops like corn. The plan was to remove the brush and trees from the mountains, install terracing in their place, and thereby boost national grain production. The plan was executed with a vengeance, and before long terraced fields existed on the slopes of virtually every hill and mountain in North Korea. But the terracing resulted in a drop in grain production rather than an increase, as negative side effects came into play. Yi U-hong goes so far as to claim that the massive building of terraced fields resulted in the ruin not only of North Korean agriculture but of its industry and even its overall economy as well.

[Yi] In stripping the brush and trees from the mountains they lost not only their forest and wood resources but their water resources as well. When you build terraced fields the most basic thing you must be careful to do is prevent the loss of soil to erosion. You have to put in stone retaining walls and rain run-off ditches, and you have to make the banks around the fields much higher than ordinarily required. And as time passes you simply cannot avoid erosion even if you do these things.

Yi says that none of the measures he said were necessary to retard erosion had been used in the terraced fields he saw in North Korea. Yi said that as a result even moderate rainfall eroded soil from the terraced fields and carried it into the paddies at the foot of the mountains, damaging the rice crop.

[Yi] When I went up and took a look at the terraced fields, I found that they contained rocks the size of your head. The rain was washing even these large stones down into the rice paddies.

Yi says that the terraced fields were damaging not just rice paddy but even streams and rivers. The soil washed from the mountain sides infiltrated the rivers, building up the river bottoms with silt. The silting is very much in evidence even in the large Taedong River, of whose beauty the North Korean government never tires of boasting.

[Yi] The Taedong River flows about 100 meters from Chuche Tower, the 170 meter-high edifice that is the symbol of Pyongyang. If you look out over the Taedong right at the Tower, you will see what looks like rocks breaking the surface of the water here and there. But they are not usually rocks; it is sand. The sand was so thick I got the feeling I could walk all the way across the river on it.

Yi said that silt damage from the terraced fields has even reached beyond the rivers and is beginning to impact on the oceans.

[Yi] Coastal waters have become so shallow that you can even walk in the ocean in front of the diving boards installed at Wonsan's Songdo Park swimming beach. Wonsan harbor has filled with so much silt that our 3,500-ton Samjiyon could not reach the docks.

Yi said he went fishing in the ocean about two km straight out from Wonsan harbor. The silt accumulation was so severe even there, he said, that the ocean was no more than about six meters deep. Yi said that the silt had interrupted sea currents, and that he did not spot a single shellfish of any variety. He said that the coastal fish have disappeared, except for the bottom-dwelling frog flounder.

[Kim] You have said that the damage was greater because corn was planted in the terraced fields. Why is that?

[Yi] In Japan we plant perennials like tea plants and tangerines in our terraced fields. Corn is an annual. It dies each year and must be replanted, and its roots are very shallow. What that means is that corn just cannot absorb a lot of water. Apples, persimmons, and chestnuts, these kind of trees soak it up.

[Kim] I read your books, and I got the impression the North Korean people are lazy.

[Yi] I took the train from Pyongyang down to Kaesong one time, and as I looked out the window I noticed that people were relaxing in the shade all along the way. I asked the guide about it, and he said they were taking a work break. As it happened, we were in the weeding season, yet I saw farmers resting in the shade during the whole of the train ride.

[Kim] What is it? Are their minds not set on working hard?

[Yi] In North Korean society, if you work hard, you are shunned. The basic reason for that is that the land is not yours, and you cannot farm as you want to. I was often told in North Korea that, "They tell me to do it, so I do it." I have seen orchards caught in storms at night where the rain falls and the wind blows so hard the ripening apples fall off the trees, yet nobody comes out to pick them up. The orchard workers will just stand around until someone tells them to pick up the apples. When they harvest the rice, if some of the dry plants fall into water, no one will clear them up. When rain catches harvested sheaves of rice, you have got to arrange them carefully on trees and elsewhere so that they will dry and not mold or rot. I was setting the sheaves carefully out to dry after a rain one time, and they asked me why they had to do it as carefully as I was. I had to convince them that it was necessary! In fact, I found they have nothing to tie the sheaves with. They do not plait rice-straw rope. Their chemical industry is so backward that they don't even have vinyl tying ribbon. Even if they had the twine to tie the sheaves, you have to have trees on which to tie the sheaves to dry. But there are no trees. All you can do is leave it on the ground.

Rice Production Is About 20 Percent of Announced Figures

The reality of the North Korean agricultural situation that Yi U-hong describes is worse than even we had imagined. Yi went so far as to characterize it as, "About the level prevailing in Japan in the 1920s." This agricultural reality, he said, caused him to choose the title "Republic of Poverty" for his book on the realities of North Korean agriculture. A review of statistics published in North Korea, however, shows an increase in agricultural production year after year after year. Says Yi: "They use statistics to hide what is really going on."

[Yi] North Korea says that it produces an average of 1500 kg of rice per 10 are. But that is patently impossible. I am not sure anybody in the world would regard those numbers as possible because North Korea practices dense, field-style rice cultivation. Anyone who has any knowledge of agriculture understands that the North Korean claim is ridiculous on its face. Even in Japan, which leads the world in per-unit rice production, farmers regard 750 kg per 10 are to be the maximum possible yield, yet North Korea claims to do twice as well. No variety of paddy rice grown anywhere in the world can yield 1500 kilograms per 10 are.

Yi U-hong estimated North Korea's actual rice yield the way it is calculated in Japan and elsewhere. The procedure begins by selecting a paddy in which the rice is ready to harvest and then counting the number of rice stalks in the paddy and the number of ears of rice per stalk. These data are used as a base of calculation. When the rice harvest was at its height in the fall of 1984, Yi U-hong said he led a group from Wonsan Agricultural College including a dean, four or five professors, and about 20 students into the fields to calculate the rice yield using this procedure.

The experiment turned up interesting facts. They counted 50 rice stalks, 380 ears of rice, and 62 grains of rice per ear in each square meter of the paddy. The rice weighed in at 19 grams per 1000 grains of rice. Thus, the rice yield per 10 are was 322.3 kg, or about 20 percent of North Korea's officially announced yield.

[Yi] I regard even the 320 kg yield rate to be too high, because some rice is always lost during the harvesting process itself and more is lost during threshing. Given North Korea's present level of development, I estimate they lose about 30 percent of the crop in these two processes. That means that their actual yield of brown rice may amount to about 250 kg per 10 are.

[Kim] What was the reaction to the experiment by the students and professors who worked with you?

[Yi] They nodded their heads and some took notes, and that was it. After the experiment we were returning to the college when I began to get a little angry as I realized that not a single one of them was going to say anything. But then I realized that even if someone wanted to measure rice yield in North Korea he could not do it. You need a scale to do it, and they don't have scales up there. I brought the scale we used in the experiment with me from Japan.

Yi U-hong has noted repeatedly that the students he taught at Wonsan Agricultural College found his classes to be very interesting. When I asked him what evidence he had for that, his answer bowled me over.

[Yi] I knew they liked my classes because they always took assiduous notes on my lectures. North Korean university students are issued only three notebooks each year. I filled with pride as I watched them using up their precious note-book pages to take notes on my lectures.

Consumer Goods Go from "Insufficient" to "Deficient"

[Kim] What is the problem? Are the North Koreans having trouble manufacturing enough paper?

[Yi] The stronghold of trade between Chochongnyon and North Korea is the Japanese port city of Niigata. Chochongnyon uses a warehouse there, and I have had occasion to visit it. The place was filled with the everyday necessities, and paper was the most prevalent item in the warehouse. North Korean newspapers print overseas editions on high-quality stock, but their domestic editions are printed on paper that is of poorer quality than the lowest-grade pulp printing stock. Students in Japan and other free societies grow up with no understanding of the precious nature of paper. Sometimes I wonder how they would react if they knew the facts.

Yi had begun by speaking about the paper shortage in North Korea and ended up linking the paper shortage with the reality of the overall shortage of consumer goods in the North. Hand soap is in such short supply that each household is issued only three bars per year. Toothpaste and toothbrushes simply do not exist in North Korea. Clothing is in short supply, and threadbare clothing is the rule. He went on and on.

[Kim] If there is no toothpaste what do they do? Brush their teeth with salt?

[Yi] No, they would need salt for that. They just clean their teeth with their fingers.

[Kim] Do they have toilet tissue?

[Yi] How would they have toilet tissue? They use leaves in the summer, and they cut and dry grass to use in the winter. The item in shortest supply is handkerchiefs. Anytime people work and perspire, you can see them all wiping their faces with their clothing.

Yi U-hong visited North Korea on 11 separate occasions and says that he grew to understand in detail the extent of the backwardness of light industry in North Korea. He says he sometimes gets frustrated trying to figure out just what North Korea has accomplished under its "Chuche" banner in the 40 plus years since liberation. The electric power sector is the most deplorable of all in Yi's view.

[Yi] Electrical power is the foundation of industry in every nation in the world. The first barometer used to measure the level of national industrial development is the quantity of electrical power generated and the quality of that power. North Korean electrical generation is, in a word, insufficient, and its quality is low. The instability of the electric power supply is the basic reason why North Korean industry has not advanced further than it has and why it is now stagnant."

When Yi speaks of North Korea's trouble with electricity, he is talking about electricity used in people's homes, of course, but he says that the electrical problem is just as bad at industrial sites. Yi says that the special hot-house project he attempted to construct in the North failed because of the problem of electrical instability. Yi notes that the urgency of North Korea's electrical problems is best exemplified by the fact that North Koreans must make a single light bulb last an entire generation.

[Yi] The typical North Korean home has two rooms, each two or three pyong [about 3.3 square meters] in size, with an attached, two-pyong kitchen; and each home has one electric light. They knock a hole in the wall between the kitchen and the adjacent room where the light is located so that people working in the kitchen can share the light. The brightness of light itself, meanwhile, does not remain constant. In fact it doesn't stay on. The electricity comes on and goes off again all the time. This occurs because the North uses an "alternating supply system" under which electricity is supplied to one area for a while and then turned off there and supplied to a different area."

Yi said that he thought the lights were "about" 40 watts. He explained that he said "about" because North Korean electrical items do not have wattage notations on them.

[Yi] I have heard a lot of stories about Korean residents of Japan who took fluorescent light fixtures with them as gifts for their relatives when they visited North Korea. But the fluorescent lamps invariably fail after they are installed and the electricity turned on. It is a very natural thing. A fluorescent lamp will not function if the voltage falls as little as 10 percent below its rated voltage.

According to Yi, the only buildings in North Korea which use fluorescent lighting are those which have their own electrical generators. Such buildings include places visited often by foreigners, such as the Choson Revolution Museum and the Children's Palace.

They Cannot Make Nails or Wire.

[Kim] How bad is the electrical instability problem?

[Yi] North Korea uses 220 volts as her standard voltage. But I tested the electricity at my hotel and at the Wonsan Agricultural College and found that the voltage varied between 130 to 180 volts. It doesn't take an expert to see the problems that can cause.

Yi claims that not only fluorescent lamps for home use but also air conditioners, washing machines, electric rice-cookers, television sets, in short any household electric appliance which contains a microchip cannot be used in North Korean homes.

[Yi] Factories which operate on electricity find it difficult to produce anything. I don't think a single factory in Japan or any other newly-developed country could operate on the voltage generated in North Korea. Computers and sensors respond sensitively to even slight changes in electrical voltage, automatically shutting down. Such shut downs can cause dramatic losses.

[Kim] What is the basic cause of their electrical problems?

[Yi] It is caused by a decrease in the quantity of output from hydroelectric and thermal electric power generation. The reduction in the generation of hydroelectric power initially began with the exhaustion of water resources caused by building terraced fields on all mountains. The reduction in power generation from thermal electric sources has a different cause. Their thermal generating plants run on coal, and production is down because of the high volume of bad coal used in North Korea. About 30 percent of North Korean coal is composed of a peat that will not burn. I am saying that their coal is not pure anthracite but has a high peat content. I asked a specialist why they didn't refine the peat out of the coal, and he said that the almost universal trend was to leave the peat in the coal to meet high coal production targets at the mines.

Yi estimates that North Korea generates 22 billion kilowatts of electricity, of which about 12 kilowatts are generated by thermal means and about nine billion kilowatts by hydroelectric facilities.

[Kim] Your figures for electric leakage during transmission and distribution seem very high. How come?

[Yi] You could answer yourself if you knew the level of North Korean industry. In particular, their metal rolling industry is way behind. North Korea cannot yet make nails or wire, for example. Neither do they produce thin steel plate, copper wire, or copper plate. Thus, of course they cannot produce the various sizes of electric wire necessary for power transmission and distribution, nor can they produce silicon steel plate, coated wire, or coatings. If you don't have silicon steel plate or coated wire, it is impossible to produce magnetic machines like transformers, electric motors, or electric generators. The electric power distribution grid is in such sorry shape that no amount of extra generating capacity will make any difference. It is like a big jar with the bottom broken out, no amount of water will ever fill it up.

The Chochongnyon is North Korea's "Supply Base"

[Kim] Do you really mean they don't have nails?

[Yi] The nails they use are cut from thick steel plates and are about 10 cm long. One end is sharpened to a point, and the other end is bent over like the letter "L" to make a head. They approximate nails; they are like the nails Japan used in the Edo Era. These things bend like crazy when you try to drive them into a board. I requested nails like those used in free societies when I was building my hot house in Wonsan, but they never issued me any, and I finally brought what I needed from Japan.

Yi said that when the "supply of basic materials" necessary to build his hot house was blocked he began to doubt whether he would be able to build complete his project. He finally concluded that, "It is impossible to build the hot house under the North Korean system.

[Yi] In August 1985 I was feeling disillusioned because of the shortage of materials, when I got a message from party Central Committee. The message said my special hot house, which of course was not completed, was to be made a stop on a tour for ethnic Koreans visiting from Japan. The party added my project to the tour not to show people that the yield from my hot house could improve the diet of the North Korean people but because the party wanted to use my project as a means of fleecing even more money from the wealthy Japanese-Koreans. I felt like I would rather go back to Tokyo and be a beggar than be a party to extorting money from these folks.

[Kim] How much do ethnic Koreans in Japan invest in North Korea now?

[Yi] The Chochongnyon is North Korea's de facto supply base. The Chochongnyon provides North Korea everything from daily necessities to equipment for factories.

[Kim] Have many factories been installed?

[Yi] Chochongnyon businessmen have supplied the funds for factories in North Korea which produce ramyon [instant noodles] and soy sauce. Factories provided by Chochongnyon are called patriotic factories. Most of these plants are not operating, however, because of the problems with electric power I described earlier. I understand that the factories which had automated equipment are completely ruined.

[Kim] Are Chochongnyon businessmen privy to confidential things like this about North Korea?

[Yi] They all know it, but they never criticize North Korea openly. Most of them have relatives in the North, remember. It's kind of like conducting business negotiations with a guy who is holding your relative hostage.

Yi repeatedly asserted that North Korean agriculture and industry had failed. He said that North Korea was a place where the "principles" and "basic common sense" of industry had disappeared, replaced by the "Chuche philosophy" slogan. As I read Yi's books, I occasionally stumbled across unbelievable descriptions, as of a reservoir with no outlet, harbors which ships could not enter, a glass factory which could not produce glass plate, and a hotel with bathrooms but no sewer system. Yi showed me a dramatic snapshot of one of these oddities.

Pollution Sickness and Occupational Disease

The photograph was of a 13-story building situated on Chongnyon Avenue, Pyongyang's main street. Looking at the picture, I realized that the distance between floors varied, so much so that I wondered how in the devil anyone could build such a building. Floors two to five were close together, while floors six and seven sagged widely apart; but strangely the eighth floor narrowed back again.

[Yi] The building looked so strange I asked a guide assigned there what had happened. "They built it, and it just came out looking like that," the guide said. "It is so unsightly that the party Central Committee plans to tear it down this year and build another in its place." It was February 1982 when I stopped there, and when I passed by the place in June of 1985, three years later, the building was still there, as unsightly as ever.

Yi said that many of the large-scale buildings in the North are off plumb, so much so that the tilt is visible to the naked eye. When asked the reason for this inability to achieve perfect balance, one of the basics in the construction field, Yi said, "Possibly because they don't have measuring instruments; possibly because they are short of technicians."

[Kim] You have pronounced North Korean industry to be in very poor condition. Doesn't that throw doubt on their ability to produce arms?

[Yi] I get that question a lot. To produce arms, a nation's chemical industry, the metalworking industry, and the machine industry have to rise to certain levels of sophistication. To start out with the conclusion, no contradiction exists between the overall industrial impoverishment I have described and the production of firearms and other military equipment. Arms can be produced by importing the necessary parts and assembling the final product. Press reports tell us that North Korea exports arms. Although Pyongyang is short of foreign exchange, they could export arms to acquire the hard currency they needed to improve their arms industry.

In the books Yi has written, he discusses North Korea's pollution problems. There is little contamination originating from daily living because so few consumer goods are available, but Yi describes industrial pollution as being very serious because of a lack of facilities for disposing of industrial wastes. Yi found evidence of water contamination by heavy metals while on a field trip to the Mirim and Ponghwa Dams on the outskirts of Pyongyang in late June 1985.

[Yi] It had not rained for three weeks, yet the river was brown and turbid. A snapping turtle stuck its head up out of the water, but the water was so filthy I could not make out the outlines of his body just beneath the surface. I asked a guide why the water was so dirty, and he told me that a zinc smelter upstream from the dam dumped its waste water into the river.

"Everywhere but North Korea they use lime to neutralize the noxious effluent from a zinc smelter. The lime and heavy metal are then separated from the effluent in a centrifuge before the stuff is released into the environment. If this is not done the effluent will harm not only plants and animals but men as well. I was amazed to learn that North Korea was dumping the unprocessed heavy metal, cadmium, into rivers used by the citizens of Pyongyang and nearby residents as drinking water."

There Are No Fat People in North Korea."

[Kim] In your book you also mentioned the problem of organic mercury compounds coming from a nitrogen fertilizer factory. Have you actually seen damage caused by contamination?

[Yi] Factories which make nitrogen fertilizer put out organic mercury, which as a heavy metal is second in toxicity only to cadmium. When I visited a chemical fertilizer factory in Hamhung, I asked them how they removed the mercury, and they told me that they ran the effluent into a settling pond. After the solids settled out, they discharged the remaining liquid into the river.

Yi says that while he was visiting Songdo Park in Wonsan in the summer of 1984, he talked to a North Korean physician who told him about a number of strange diseases cropping up in the population.

[Yi] As I listened to the doctor's description, I recognized the symptoms as being those of what we call Itai Itai sickness in Japan. Itai Itai is caused by cadmium poisoning contracted from drinking water from polluted streams and rivers.

Yi says that in addition to this disease, North Korea was beset by a high incidence of pneumonoconiosis and tuberculosis. He says that because of a shortage of medicines, many sicknesses which could be cured with early treatment go untreated. The patients deteriorate seriously. According to Yi, the shortage of medicines in North Korea is so severe that ethnic Koreans from Japan who visit North Korea must bring along not only streptomycin and other medicines for tuberculosis but even such basic medicines as those for headaches or fever.

In his book, Yi expresses doubt about North Korea's announced average life span for its citizens, which is 70 for men and 76 for women.

[Yi] Materials published by the World Health Organization in 1979 peg North Korea's average life span at 54. Having actually lived up there, I believe WHO may have been too generous.

[Kim] What was your initial impression of the North?

[Yi] I cannot rid myself of the memory of what I saw when I first debarked from the Samjiyon. It was 27 May 1981. When I looked for the first time at the people who had come out to welcome us, I actually doubted whether these people could be of my race. They were very dark-complected and their skins dry.... They reminded me of inhabitants of the islands in Southeast Asia. I asked them why they were so burned, and they told me it was the rice-transplanting season, and they had all been sunburned. I later discovered it was malnourishment. The North Koreans are shorter than the South Koreans.... During my time in Korea I never saw a fat person, except for party executives. When a North Korean woman reaches age 40, she looks like a 60-year-old crone.

[Kim] Did you have many opportunities to speak frankly with North Koreans?

[Yi] North Koreans avoid contacts with strangers, probably because they do not have freedom to travel. They never speak first to someone they don't know, and if you speak first, the North Korean will try to avoid conversation with a curt, "don't know." A guide accompanied me during my entire stay in North Korea. Even at Wonsan Agricultural College when the other professors had something to discuss with me, we had to speak through the guide. I was with my guide so much that I developed rapport with him on the human level, and I was able to have conversations with North Koreans without his knowledge. And when I met friends who lived in the North, they shared their real feelings with me. The people who live in regions outside big cities like Wonsan and Pyongyang have a very hard life indeed. I have found myself almost overwhelmed that human beings can even live like that. The hard reality is that these folks don't even have corn to eat or wine to drink. I have seen children who don't know what rice is.... The problems of basic food, clothing, and shelter simply have not been solved in these areas.

[Kim] Still, when I watch North Korean television it looks like the North has pretty well solved the problem of basic food, clothing, and shelter.

[Yi] How can you believe North Korean public information and propaganda? That's a society in which absolutely nothing they regard as unfavorable about themselves is made public. If you are sharp, you don't have to go live in North Korea to spot the problems. If you watch attentively you can spot the weak points even in the things they trot out to boast about.

Widespread Work Ethic: "Just Get By"

[Kim] Was a guide with you 24 hours a day?

[Yi] That's right. One night I went to meet a friend, and the guide went with me, went right into the house, plunked himself down in the next room, and monitored what we were saying. Finally, we had to get under blankets to talk without being overheard. Of course, there were exceptions. If I went to the home of a party executive, for example, the guide had to wait outside in a detached building. Foreign guests who visit North Korea are bound to suffer limitations on what they can see and hear.

[Kim] Were there times when your guide actually prevented you from approaching people?

[Yi] Let me tell you a story about something that happened at my hotel while I was visiting Hamwon. I stepped out of the entrance to the hotel and raised my camera to take a shot of the street scene. As my camera came up, my guide suddenly materialized and shoved me, spoiling the picture. Then he yelled to about a dozen onlookers and told them to be off, pretending in the process to have accidentally blocked my shot. I must say those people were gone in an instant. Then I realized he didn't want any people to appear in my photographs."

[Kim] What are the attitudes of the North Koreans toward foreign guests, especially visiting Korean residents from Japan?

[Yi] I still remember my impression of the faces of some North Koreans a group of us Korean residents from Japan encountered on a train. We had visited Panmunjom and were on the way back to Pyongyang from Kaesong by train. The train had 16 cars, and our party's seats were in the last car. As we walked through the other cars to get to our own, I was very conscious of the stares of the North Korean passengers. They stared at us silently, and each face took on the same, cold expression. I thought maybe it was just me, but when I talked to the others I found they had felt the same way. One said, "They actually scared me out of my wits."

[Kim] What kind of look was on their faces? Was it resentment at people who were financially better off?

[Yi] I didn't ask them, of course, so I really don't know. But it looked like envy and inferiority complex and frustration, and I must say it looked to me to be outright hate.

[Kim] How many hours do the North Korean residents work? How hard do they work?

[Yi] They work as many hours as they physically have, from 0700 to 2400 hours. But in reality they just fill up the hours getting-by, just doing what they have to, perhaps because they are so sick of working long hours. In July 1985 I watched the North Koreans construct a set of barracks for the Soviet Navy; I had a front-row seat from the beginning of the project to the last. They installed a foundation on a lot about 800 square meters in size. In other countries 20 to 30 workers would have taken three or four days to complete the foundation job. The North Koreans used 300 to 400 workers and didn't finish for a solid month.

One day at noon as I went back to my hotel to have lunch I noticed that the workers had just broken for lunch. I left the hotel again about 1430, and the workers were still on their lunch break. Some were lying down, and others gathered in little knots to play cards.... A little after 1500, a propaganda truck pulled up to the site and a female agitator in her 30s reeled off a spiel to the men, sounding like a machine: "Let us complete this project wonderfully well in the allotted time, so that we can repay the warm benefits conferred upon the citizens of Wonsan by the great leader and the dear comrade leader." The workers didn't respond. The agitator then got serious, reading off a number of the workers' names and specifically encouraging each of these to return to work. Only then did the workers stand up, brush off their trouser bottoms, and go to work. It was almost 1530.

Even North Korea Has Thieves Now.

[Kim] Aren't there people on the site whose job is to encourage the workers to work?

[Yi] They established a command headquarters for the barracks construction job. The command group was composed of about 20 persons, including the senior secretary of the Wonsan party. Their headquarters happened to be the Wonsan International Hotel, where I was staying. They reported to work at 0800 and went home at 1800, and during those hours they seldom if ever visited the work site. They spent their time in meetings and discussions. I have seen them sitting around shooting the bull, and I have seen them sitting around downing convivial beers during the day, but never once did I see them visit the work site and offer encouragement or direction to the workers.

[Kim] What happy occasions do the North Koreans experience in their lives?

[Yi] About all they have is attending relatives' weddings, and viewing the cultural movies and the presentations of travelling performing groups, called culture and information troupes, when they visit the farming areas. When word hits that a movie is coming, they get so excited they stop working.

[Kim] Have you heard any of the Korean residents directly express any dissatisfaction with Kim Il-song or Kim Chong-il?

[Yi] No North Korean would ever criticize either of those men in front of someone he did not know well. North Koreans who were well acquainted with me or who felt safe in my presence did express their dissatisfaction. Among themselves, the people shorten the lengthy titles of the two Kims to signs made by the fingers. "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song" becomes an upraised thumb, and the "dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il" becomes an upraised pinkie. Let me repeat something I heard in North Korea. "Do you know why the president has that wen on his neck? He is so obese the fat has no place else to go." That one is so prevalent that everyone knows it, and I heard it often.

[Kim] Does North Korea have thieves?

[Yi] In 1983 we were directed not to frequent a certain pulgogi [marinated roast beef] house at night. The restaurant was located near a copse of pine trees just outside Songdo Park. That was the first time there had been a directive of that sort. I had heard that if Japanese-Koreans were spotted by thieves that they would steal everything we owned, down to our underwear. The term "car of thieves" is very common and refers to the fact that many North Koreans do not buy tickets when they ride the train. I have been told that as many as one-half the passengers in a given car are riding without the benefit of tickets.

[Kim] Does North Korea have prostitutes?

[Yi] I am so old that frankly I didn't look into that. Once in a hotel in the Diamond Mountains I saw tourists drinking in the hotel bar with some females. That is a sight that is certainly not readily seen in North Korea, so I had my suspicions, but I did not follow up on them.

They Know the South Koreans Have a Higher Standard of Living"

[Kim] Didn't you get the impression that the North Koreans are relatively unsophisticated?

[Yi] I don't know. I don't think so. One time I was smoking a cigarette at the Songdo Park Beach and a man came up. He asked me for a cigarette, and I gave him one. I wanted to talk to him a bit and tried to start up a conversation, but his responses remained guarded. You know, he bummed a cigarette from me but did not diverge a single inch from that business about how the mercy or the great leader allowed him to live in peace and plenty. When you have seen a number of examples like that you begin to think they are more than a bit shrewd, although pitiful at the same time.

[Kim] How much do the North Koreans know about us in the South?

[Yi] They know everything. You know our saying, "Words have no legs, but they can travel a thousand ri." They even know that Yi Ung-pyong defected. They are fully aware that the South has a higher standard of living than they do. They figured a lot of it out by observing that many of the clothes worn into North Korea by ethnic Koreans visiting from Japan were made in the Republic of Korea.

[Kim] Mr. Yi, you were teaching advanced technology in regard to your hot house directly to North Korean students and party officials, but you were unable to complete the hot house?

[Yi] Many of the things I said contradicted directives issued by the great leader. In their system, they couldn't accept what I said even though they wanted to do so. The North Korean people say that they "must absolutely put into practice the directives of the great leader no matter what," but the fact is that they don't put these directives into practice. They cut corners at every step. That is why the regime so tenaciously denounces a propensity for cutting corners.

[Kim] Don't they feel like they must work to change the things in the directives of the great leader and other leaders that contradict the principles of natural science?

[Yi] Who would do such a thing? Any man of principle who would stand up and say they were wrong would be in his grave in an instant. "Conservative" or "technical mystic" are the names of crimes, and if you commit such grave crimes as these you can find yourself exiled to one of the special economic zones.

[Kim] Did you ever visit these zones?

[Yi] They won't let you see them. All you can do is estimate what is going on there from what you hear from the people. I have heard that the people in the zones live in rough, unsettled tracts and must supply their own food, clothing, and shelter. The people say that nobody has ever returned from the zones.

[Kim] You left North Korea in 1985, and it is generally believed that North Korea has improved since that time. Do you agree with that?

[Yi] How could it improve? It can only worsen with time, not improve. If you look at the road North Korea has tread from liberation day till now, you will conclude that things will only worsen.

[Kim] Even so, if you read the articles written by people who have visited North Korea, you get the feeling that their economy is slowly improving. Of course, you have to take into account the fact that the travelers are there only for a limited time and see only a limited number of places.

[Yi] I can't understand how we can say that they visit only good places like the large cities so they come back ignorant of North Korea's realities. I can understand visitors who deliberately hold back for their own purposes, but if you visit the place and put up your feelers at all, you will spot the weaknesses in North Korean society. Even the Pyongyang of which North Korea is so proud is awash in weak points.

South Korea Will Carry a Heavy Burden After Reunification

[Kim] Mr. Yi, do you think that North Korea can reverse her economic course on her own?

[Yi] There is no possibility that they can improve things on their own. Let's say that someone helps them build a factory. Now they have got the factory, but they need a stable supply of raw materials to operate the factory. You just cannot expect to get that in North Korea. If you want to operate the factory, production will be possible only if you provide it with a continuous flow of machinery, equipment, and raw materials.

[Kim] Is this the first time you have visited South Korea?

[Yi] I visited when I was nine, before liberation, but I have not been back since.

[Kim] Do you have any impressions about us?

[Yi] I have not been around Seoul yet, but I did visit Namdaemun Market, and I was amazed. I was just stunned when I saw all the merchandise available there. I could not help wondering what the North Korean people would think if they could see Namdaemun Market.

[Kim] You live in Japan and have visited both North and South Korea. How would you compare them?

[Yi] To compare North and South Korea is to compare a new-born baby with an adult.

[Kim] The fervor for North-South reunification is growing in South Korea today. What do you think about the possibility of reunification?

[Yi] You hear the term reunification everywhere, but I am of the opinion that reunification will be a very heavy burden indeed for South Korea to bear.

Mr. Yi says that his life was threatened after his two books were published. Yi returned to Japan in early October 1990. He said he intends to spend the rest of his life researching how to grow tangerines in water culture.

* Antigovernment Forces in North Korea

902C0329 Seoul PUKHAN in Korean No 9 Sep 90 pp 172-177

[Article by Kang Sin-ki, member of the North Korean Studies Society: "A Study of Antigovernment Forces in North Korea"]

[Text] Despite recent political and social changes in the communist nations, North Korea is intensifying its cutoff of information from outside and tightening internal controls. Meanwhile, some foreign visitors to North Korea and North Korea specialists are claiming that there are anti-government persons in North Korea. And evidence of anti-government organizations is coming to light, as indicated by the increase in concentration camps for political offenders and the increase in the number of defections of overseas students.

Testimony of Foreign Visitors to North Korea

Dr. Brucan, former Romanian ambassador to the United States and the United Nations and several times president of the Romanian state broadcasting system, held a press conference during his visit to Seoul on 13 June 1990. In that press conference, Dr. Brucan, who visited North Korea on four occasions and even met with Kim Il-song, stated that anti-Kim Il-song organizations had been formed in North Korea centering about the intellectuals and that they were carrying out activities aimed at pressuring for democratization. Among those belonging to these organizations, he said, were three members of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] and three journalists, and that they hoped their activities would be made public as a means of gaining worldwide support. He stated that the objective of their activities was to pressure Kim Il-song for North-South reunification and the opening up of North Korean society.

Also, Professor Kenneth Wolz [name as published] of Indiana University, who visited Pyongyang, Kaesong, Nampo and other places in North Korea for two weeks in May 1990, was able to confirm that even in the tightly sealed North Korean society there was a fairly large number of persons who opposed chuche thought and that their numbers were gradually increasing. He also said that it appeared that particularly in the intellectual class there had formed a considerable number of sympathizers who favored internal reforms of the system. They are criticizing the system and advocating the need for an aggressive reform policy in order to revive the lagging economy, he says. In the universities, students liken Kim Il-song and Castro to Ceaucescu and make sarcastic remarks about "the death of Ceausescu and their continuous crazy acts (dictatorial behavior)." And one woman he met in front of a foreigners' commissary lamented "If some [North Korean] people can use [these stores], then why can't others?" Through such incidents, he said, one can sense that the relative dissatisfaction of the North Korean people is rising.

Increase in Political Prisoner Camps

April 1982 Estimate	January 1990 Estimate
105,000 in 8 camps	152,000 in 12 camps
27,000 in Onsong, N. Hamgyong	*New camps
20,000 in Hoeryong, N. Hamgyong	10,000 in Toksong, S. Hamgyong
15,000 in Kyongsong, N. Hamgyong	15,000 in Kaechon, S. Pyongan
13,000 in Yodok, S. Hamgvong	5,000 in Pukchong, S. Pyongan
10,000 in Chongpyong, S. Hamgyong	7,000 in Tongsin, Chagang
5,000 in Yongchon, N. Pyongan	
15,000in Yongbyon, N. Pyongan	
10,000 in Huichon, Chagang	

Remarks: Increase of four camps and 47,000 persons. Source: SEOUL SINMUN, 18 January

Ha Su-to, a former official of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (GAKRJ), commented in a press conference on 16 July 1990 that the Kim Il-song regime would be overthrown by a rebellion of mid-level North Korean military officers as was the case with the collapse of the Ceaucescu regime in Romania. He said that the military officers—many of whom had received training in the Soviet Union after the creation of the North Korean army and have intimate ties to the Soviet Union—would be the prime movers of a reform of the North Korean system.

The majority of visitors to North Korea state that anti-government organizations and personalities exist in North Korea. For example, the Japanese newspaper SANKEI, on 24 August 1988 quoted visitors to North Korea as stating that some 800 North Korean workers, farmers, and military personnel who harbored dissatisfaction toward the North Korean system had formed an organization called the "Korean People's Freedom League" and were carrying out activities centering on Kusong, Nampo, Wonsan, Chongjin, and Sinuiju. The paper stated further that their activities were directed toward opposing chuche thought and that in order to gain the sympathy of the citizenry, the group was demanding primarily an increase in the grain ration and an improvement in the standard of living.

Indicators of Anti-Government Organizations and Consciousness

Apart from the statements of such foreign visitors to North Korea, a series of incidents taking place in the North reveals the existence of anti-government organizations and consciousness. To begin with, there is the increase of number of concentration camps for political offenders and the number of persons held there. Since the end of the 1950's, North Korea has isolated persons who opposed the system or were uncooperative and, in order to prevent the occurrence and formation of opposition or disaffected elements through them, established and is still operating concentration camps for political prisoners in remote mountainous areas. Recently, however, it has been learned that the former eight camps have been expanded to 12 and the number of prisoners has increased from 105,000 to 152,000. The growth of numbers of camps and prisoners proves that organizations and persons opposed to the government and policies of the present dictatorial North Korean system, with its hereditary succession and closed economic system, continues to grow.

Next is the increase in numbers of persons defecting from North Korea (including students overseas) and the change in their motives for defection. If we analyze trends in North Korean defections that took place in the 1980's, we see that previously most of the defectors were soldiers stationed in the area of the front lines on the DMZ. Recently, however, defectors have included civilians and students overseas. Whereas in the past the defectors were motivated by a desire to escape their own reality, this has changed and today defectors are mostly persons who have decided to flee North Korea because they gradually grew dissatisfied with the contradictions in the North Korean system and had learned of the development of South Korea.

Recent North Korean Defectors

Group	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	Total
Military	1		2	1		1	2		6		13
Civilians	1	4	1			2	13	4	3	1	29
Students									6	2	8
Total	2	4	3	1	0	3	15	4	15	3	50 Source: SEOUL SINMUN, 20 April 1990

The defectors also state that among the populace of North Korea and colleagues studying abroad, there are many persons who admire South Korea and capitalist nations, which proves that a considerable number of residents inside and outside of North Korea have a feeling of opposition toward the North Korean system. Let me give a few examples of the testimony of recent defectors.

Tong Yong-chun, who had been studying in Poland until he defected in May 1989, said that many North Korean residents realize that South Korea is "A land where eight big pillars (eight economic sectors including steel, shipbuilding, electronics, and automobiles) stand tall." And North Korean intellectuals see the way the Seoul streets look in scenes depicting South Korean student demonstrations, which are carried on television, and they comprehend South Korea's development and feel admiration for South Korea and dissatisfaction toward North Korea's false propaganda.

Students studying abroad who defected from Poland, East Germany, and the Soviet Union in 1989 and 1990 unanimously say that North Korean students who have arrived overseas feel, during their first year of overseas study, that they have an obligation to repay Kim Il-song and his son. After a year has passed, however, they come to understand the contradictions in the North Korean system. And from the third year, over 90 percent of them feel disillusionment with the North Korean system and admire South Korea and capitalist nations and feel anxiety when they think of returning home.

Chang Yong-chol, who studied in East Germany and defected in November 1989, says that party cadres, who can obtain information more readily than the general populace, express critical opinions about the government. He states that despite strict party control, North Korean diplomats are even more critical than the students and young party members, and are even criticizing the leadership ability of Kim Chong-il. According to Kim Un-hak, a student in Poland who defected in May 1989, among workers who do not have opportunities for advanced education to develop their abilities or for career advancement there is a great deal of anti-government sentiment, albeit not organized.

Chang Yong-chol also stated that Kim Il-song University students once made a leaflet critical of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il politicies and were arrested while disseminating it. Around the same time the party secretary of Pyongyang Mechanical College (a former overseas student) was purged for writing and sending to the Central Committee an unsigned letter in which he criticized the failure of economic policies and suggested future directions for economic policy.

There is also the background of the early elections for the SPA [Supreme People's Assembly], which were conducted on 22 April 1990. On 20 March, about three months after the winds of openness and democratization had reached their peak in Eastern Europe, North Korea suddenly announced that it would conduct elections for deputies to the SPA before the SPA term had finished. During the period of election preparations, the media criticized the reforms in Europe as anti-socialist schemes of the imperialists, stressing that North Korea must organize the SPA with revolutionaries loyal to Kim Il-song and the party. For example, on 17 April 1990 the Central Broadcasting Station said: "Recently the imperialists, led by the U.S. imperialists, and all sorts of reactionaries are blocking with their combined strength the development of socialism and scheming to turn them back on the road to capitalism." And the 23 March 1990 issue of NODONG SINMUN stated: "We must set up the SPA with representatives of real revolutionaries and the genuine people, who are endlessly loyal to the party and the leader."

NODONG SINMUN Editorials and Commentaries

Subject	Total number (percentage)	1989				1990
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Total number (percentage)	740(100)	127(17)	126(17)	163(22)	171(23)	153(21)
Internal solidarity	443(60)	72	71	103	98	99
Slander of South Korea	228(31)	42	43	39	53	51
International Solidarity	69(9)	13	12	21	20	3

However, the results of the election showed that while there had been an increase of 32 deputies as a result of population increase, with the exception of the removal from SPA membership of So Chol (83, member of the Political Bureau, ranked No. 7), and Ho Chong-suk (82, party secretary, ranked No. 27), there were no particular changes. And in the results of the first meeting of the new deputies, (the election of officials of the parliament and the governing bodies) major positions such as the president, vice presidents, premier, and chairman of the parliament and head of the court, were all retained in their positions, resulting in no changes in the present leadership system and policies.

That there no major changes in the election of prominent officials of the government or in policies despite the early elections, the purpose of the early elections was not to change the power structure or policies. Inasmuch as the symptoms of glasnost and democratization of Eastern Europe had begun to appear in North Korea, the regime sought to enhance the authority of the present regime in order to eradicate these phenomena in the early stages before antigovernment organizations expanded and to rationalize the pretexts for suppressing them in the future.

Next is the mass media's stress on defending the establishment. There was a big increase in the number of editorials and commentaries after the third quarter of 1989 when Eastern Europe began to open up. The biggest proportion of commentaries and editorials in the North Korean mass media was devoted to the theme of internal solidarity. In terms of content, the theme of regime maintenance predominated, as seen in expressions of supporting and defending the regime as a matter of life or death. We can assume that this was because the potential for the emergence of forces opposed to the regime is intensifying in North Korea. Here I will introduce some of the expressions emphasizing regime maintenance that appeared in recent commentaries.

On 17 April this year, Central Broadcasting System said: "We must defend with our lives the socialist system and no matter what winds blow and what storms we encounter, cherish to the end the will to fight on, holding high the banner of revolution, the banner of communism."

Also, NODONG SINMUN, in its 27 June 1990 issue, stated: "To introduce capitalist methods, which are based on the principle of individualism, into socialism, which is based on the principle of collectivism, is akin to taking poison."

In the 5 July 1990 issue NODONG SINMUN further stressed: "No matter how strong the offensive of the imperialist reactionaries and no matter what unconventional winds might blow from somewhere, party members and the people must harbor no illusions toward imperialism."

Conclusion

With respect to the existence of anti-government and consciousness in North Korea, on the negative side, the deification of Kim Il- song, press controls and thoroughgoing surveillance make it difficult to carry out activities directed against the government. As a result of the closed door policy and information controls, the majority of the populace lives blissfully unaware of life in the outside world. And because the North Korean people historically have lived in a society that spans the Yi Dynasty feudal society, the rule of the Japanese colonial period, and the Kim Il-song despotic politics, they tend to be less sensitive to concepts such as resistance and democratization. When we consider these facts, the potential for antigovernment activity in North Korea may be regarded on one extreme as vague speculation or wishful thinking. On the positive side, however, the pressure to open up has increased as a result of the opening up and democratization of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the rationale for preserving the system has become weakened. High-level North Korean officials, scholars, and students who have had the experience of travelling overseas, as well as the ordinary people, through the 13th Pyongyang Festival of Youth and Students and homeland visits by overseas Koreans, are becoming aware of the changes in the world, the development of South Korea, and the systemic contradictions and backwardness of North Korea and they know that the propaganda of the authorities is false. Moreover, in view of the fact that as the time approaches when Kim Il-song will withdraw from politics, become incapacitated, or die, forces opposing the transfer of power to Kim Chong-il may emerge. Alienated strata have also increased as a result of food crises, consumer goods shortages, and social class discrimination policies. In view of these factors, we can assume that anti-government organizations and consciousness exist in North Korea. However, because under the North Korean system such organizations are not overt, they must exist clandestinely and on a small scale. And with the exception of the principal minions of the North Korean regime and the youth stratum, which believes its brain-washing education, such consciousness exists among the majority of North Korean citizens who have become politically and socially isolated.

At present, such anti-government organizations and consciousness in North Korea cannot develop into large-scale groups because of North Korea's strong surveillance and controls. In the future, however, as North Korea is forced to bow to pressures at home and abroad, contradictions within the system and North-South economic disparities will gradually become obvious and if there is a power vacuum when Kim Il-song dies, judging from the example of Eastern Europe, the organizations will expand with explosive force and they will be able to conduct activities aimed at overthrowing the regime.

Consequently, in the future, while keeping an eye on the formation and activities of such anti-government organizations in the North, we must pay careful attention to any North Korean attempts to solve problems of internal and external pressures and internal chaos and change by resorting to the so-called "South Korean revolution."

taken only in Sima, an auspicious place where the ordination rites are performed, and can only be disavowed within the Sima.

The disavowal is effective only when the responsible person apologizes and the apology is accepted by those monks who took the vow. The monasteries may be seized forever, monks may be defrocked and jailed, but the vow was directed towards General Saw Maung. An apology made by his subordinate Major General Htun Kyi or Lieutenant General Phone Myint is neither enough nor effective.

With rampant retributions, as though the entire country has done something wrong to them, SLORC branded whoever dissented from their wishes either as BCP (Burmese Communist Party) agents or other subversive elements.

SLORC has reached its lowest pit with the latest acts, banning some Buddhist monks' associations as illegal and ordering all political parties to give consent to its Order 1/90 which make all the elected politicians of these parties members of a national convention to draft a constitution. In effect, the NLD and all other parties gave up their claims to power by forming a civlian government to rule the country. By forcing them to accept this fate SLORC has eaten its own words and painted itself into a corner.

SLORC needs a justification to hang on to power. Even though most of the parties have been coerced politically, it is not enough to draw a justificaton. SLORC is looking for a demonstration or an upheaval so that they can use force and brand those they shoot as BCP agents. A similar political justification was drawn for the bloody coup in 1988 and SLORC needs to repeat it again.

This is the time the citizens of Burma ought to contemplate seriously whether living under SLORC is worthwhile. Whether it is their concern, or to watch the situation with folded arms. Or whether they ought to take some kind of action, the action the SLORC detests most.

SLORC does not care for public opinions of both internal as well as international, and has no intention to treat anyone as equals. The NLD with the largest mandate after winning more than 80 per cent of the vote in the general election last May sent three requests to open a dialogue with SLORC. But SLORC replied only with a fine print at the bottom of its WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY, Burmese version, that "the army is not a political party and therefore the army will not discuss with any party which is based on politics."

But when the monks excommunicated the SLORC leaders, they ran around like a chicken with its head chopped off. Should the people follow the example set by the monks? Should the people follow the path of non-cooperation? Should the people, instead of going out and demonstrate, abandon streets and offices and excommunicate SLORC?

Is it not about time to draw a new strategy in unity? Is it not right that "getting along by going along is sinful," a correct warning made by President Havel of Czechoslovakia when his country was under the dictatorial communist regime?

Burma, under that terror rule of SLORC, is in the state of controlled pandemonium. The army is goaded along and SLORC has convinced them that there will be serious reprisals by the civilian government if elected politicians are allowed to form one.

The army leaders, the proud sons of the people, not the SLORC minority, by this time should contemplate seriously whether they should go along with SLORC. Are the army leaders not concerned about the true state of affairs of the country, politically, economically and socially? And more importantly, don't they care about the moral of the army?

It is time Burma should take a break and think of national reconciliation and restore the bond of love, friendship and trust between the army and the people which includes the monks, the students, the workers and the farmers which has priority before other reconciliations, such as reconciliation with the ethnic mionorities.

Burma is breaking apart and SLORC is the culprit. The minoirities as well as the Burman can reconcile among themselves but as long as SLORC is at the helm, there will be no reconciliation and therefore, there will be no peace or respect for fundamental human rights.

SLORC must go. The curtain has come down upon them. If they still want to perform, then join the Ta Sa Nya (National Unity Party). After all, as a matter of fact, the members of SLORC are the former members of the now defunct Burma Socialist Programme Party, which found a new life in the present Ta Sa Nga.

The prevailing affairs of the state demands a provisional national government comprising leaders who can form a de jure government, popular leaders, leaders from the armed forces who out of their own volition side with the people work for national reconciliation [as published].

The people have no doubt that at this juncture, the leaders of the armed forces can play the most important role and that they are the ones who can prevent a bloodbath. It is about time the armed forces leaders showed their sincerity to the people and courage to stand up for what is right.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Iran's Commerce Minister Discusses Relations

LD2311142990 Tehran IRNA in English 1333 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23 IRNA—Iran's Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, currently in Kuala Lumpur, Thursday voiced Iran's readiness to expand its commercial and economic ties with Malaysia.

He made the remark in a meeting with Malaysian Minister of Finance Encik Daim Zainuddin.

Both officials stressed that exchange of visits helps further expansion of bilateral relations.

Daim Zainuddin welcomed Tehran-Kuala Lumpur cooperation in various fields and briefed Vahaji on the economic and social situation in Malaysia as well as trend of development programs, government policies for helping the low-income families and taxation system.

Vahaji and his entourage arrived in the Malaysian capital last Tuesday to visit the third Malaysian international trade fair. The delegation has visited several industrial sites including automobile and tire manufacturing factories.

Kuwaiti Minister Arrives in Kuala Lumpur 23 Nov

BK2411111890 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir Mohamed al-Jabir al-Sabah said his country will accept any initiative from the United Nations or the Arab World to get Iraq out of Kuwait, but he said Kuwait will not accept initiatives from any other sources.

Shaykh Nasir was speaking to reporters on his arrival in Kuala Lumpur last night. He is on a tour to thank several countries for supporting Kuwait in the Gulf crisis. Shaykh Nasir was to call on Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed before leaving for India today.

Backs Military Action Against Iraq

BK2411112290 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0849 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Kuwait Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir Mohamed al-Jabir al-Sabah said Saturday the Kuwaitis will support international military action to oust Iraq from their occupied country even if it means further loss of life and property in the Gulf state.

"We support any means to have Kuwait liberated", he said referring to moves by the United States for the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution allowing military action against Iraq.

"What is left now in Kuwait that we have to be afraid of destruction?" he asked. The infrastructure within the city has been looted, stolen, machine-gunned and burnt...all." He said Kuwaitis were brutalised and executed daily by the Iraqi occupying force, and about 10 to 15 people were "blindfolded" every day for refusal to change their identity. Or, do you prefer to be liberated. You should choose, he told a news conference at the Kuwaiti Embassy here. Shaykh Nasir arrived here Friday for an overnight visit as part of his tour to several Asian nations to thank them for supporting Kuwait following the 2 August Iraqi invasion.

Asked whether he felt UN resolutions and sanctions against Iraq had been ineffective and that force instead of diplomacy should now be considered, he said that "nothing has been done" since the 2 August invasion by Iraq. He added that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces now exiled in Saudi Arabia were under "heavy training day and night" in preparation for military action against Iraq.

Shaykh Nasir, who met Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed Saturday, said they discussed all aspects of the Gulf crisis including the move for UN military action.

Prospects for Developing Ties With Fiji Hailed

BK2811101790 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Michael Raj commentary]

[Text] Malaysia and Fiji have taken a step further in enhancing their bilateral trade ties as well as in other areas. This is a step in the right direction in forging not only bilateral trade but also from the regional point of view.

Both countries are practically neighbors within the Asia-Pacific region. But the amount of trade and investments over the years is not good enough to reflect their proximity. But there is one potential for a higher level of economic ties between both countries. This was highlighted when Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese met his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed. The Fijian premier is on a six-day official visit to Malaysia.

The emphasis to increase mutual trade can also be enhanced through the implementation of practical projects. For a start, more developmental projects could be initiated in either country. For example, Malaysia is willing to share its expertise in resource-based industries. It is also encouraging to know that an air services agreement was signed between the countries. This pact would provide for direct flights between the two countries. As a result, it would facilitate increased contacts between officials and businessmen from both countries.

Fiji also indicated it wanted to buy more oil which Malaysia, being a crude oil exporter, has agreed to. In fact, Malaysia recently decided to export oil to some developing countries whose oil imports were affected by the Gulf crisis. It demonstrates Malaysia's willingness to do its part in helping more needy countries.

All of these efforts to boost trade and investments will bring about peace and prosperity in the region. It would also serve to enhance a standard of living of the people in the region. After all, it makes economic sense for one to diversify its markets as much as possible and this means also increasing one's trading partners. For, if one country only relies on one market, then any restriction on market access would surely adversely affect the exporting countries.

As it is, many developed countries are moving toward protectionist measures. Protectionist measures in the form of tariffs and quotas are imposed [words indistinct] coming out of developing countries. To overcome this, developing countries should try to expand each other's markets. At the moment, there is a lack of substance in the relations between Fiji and Malaysia but this can be rectified. There needs to be commitment by both parties to strive toward greater heights.

In the spirit of South-South cooperation, much progress can be made in the economic field. Fiji had made impressive strides economically and politically. So, too, has Malaysia. Therefore, both countries would work toward a common ground where they can participate in one another's developments.

Therefore, Malaysian businessmen, having made greater endeavors in many other markets, should also try to see what opportunities Fiji has to offer. In return, Fijian businessmen are welcome to explore the business potential in Malaysia. Malaysia is committed to the concept of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. It has proof of this in championing the interests of the Third World in global trade talks. Therefore, Fiji, among the developing nations is no exception.

Malaysia looks forward to a more meaningful and rich relationship with Fiji.

British Reportedly Invest 10 Billion Ringgit

BK2411070890 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] A British High Commission official in Kuala Lumpur said his country's investments in Malaysia are estimated at 10 billion ringgit. This puts Britain among the top five foreign investors in Malaysia.

First Secretary Alex Galley said in the first half of this year alone British investments reached about 500 million ringgit. He said ICI was building a new claw-out [word indistinct] plant costing a hundred million ringgit at Pasir Gudang in Johor. Another investment was the 450 million ringgit (?bauxite) titanium dioxide plant being built near Kemaman, Terengganu. Mr. Galley said British Petroleum had opened a new gas port link plant in Johor costing 10 million ringgit.

UMNO Members' Attacks on Monarchy Said Feared

BK2411054990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 90 p A8

[Report by Sonny Inbaraj from Kota Bharu, Kelantan State, Malaysia: "Palace Interference Makes Mahathir See Red"]

[Text] The banners with the words Daulat Tuanku (Long Live the Monarchy) flutter in the wind as one approaches the town of Gua Musang, in the northeastern Malaysian state of Kalantan.

Gua Musang, with its literal translation in Malay meaning the civet fox's cave, is the lair of opposition leader Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, a Kelantan prince and uncle of Sultan Ismail Petra, the heredity ruler of the state.

Razaleigh, the arch rival of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, managed to unite his own Spirit of '46 with the Muslim fundamentalists Parti Islam Malaysia (PAS) and Muslim moderates Berjasa and Hamim in a coalition called the Angkatan Perpaduan Umnah (Coalition for Islamic Unity).

At the recent Malaysian general election, the Angkatan swept all the state assembly and parliamentary seats in Kelantan state. With the winning of 24 seats in the 39-seat state assembly fundamentalists PAS have formed the state government together with Spirit of '46 (13 seats) and Hamim and Berjasa (one each).

PAS initially ruled Kelantan state from 1959 to 1978, and was ousted from power by the ruling National Front under the premiership of the late Tun Hussein Onn.

When PAS lost the state to the National Front, state debts amounted to M$79.2 million (Baht 792 million). In the 12 intervening years of trying to prove its worth to skeptical Kelantanese, the National Front apparently went on a spending spree. As of late June 1989, state debts had soared to M$753.77 million (Bt 7,537 million) with an annual M$10 million (Bt100 million) in interest payment alone.

With the National Front's bad track record of managing the state's finances, it was only natural for the royal household to tacitly support Razaleigh's bid to unseat the National Front Kelantan state government. In fact, tensions between the palace and Kuala Lumpur reached such a state that for a year, Sultan Ismail refused to grant an audience to Chief Minister Tan Sri Mohammad Yaakob, whom he considered as a lackey of Mahathir.

Mahathir's United Malays National Organization or UMNO (the dominant party in the ruling National Front coalition) has blamed the National Front's complete defeat in the state on palace interference.

"UMNO is unhappy that the Sultan of Kelantan had openly involved himself in politics. His Majesty gave orders to civil servants to support the party which opposed the National Front," said Deputy Home Affairs Minister Megat Junid Ayob in an interview given to the Malay daily UTUSAN MALAYSIA.

Still smarting over the opposition's victory in Kelantan, an UMNO division has proposed a resolution that the UMNO General Assembly (the party's main forum for members) scheduled to meet at the end of this month, discuss the role of the heredity rulers in the country.

Under the Malaysian Constitution, the rulers are above the law and are not supposed to be involved in politics. Observers in Kuala Lumpur fear that the tabling of the resolution would lead to UMNO members launching attacks on the monarchy.

"UMNO delegates at the General Assembly who have had problems with their rulers may take the opportunity to make unprecedented attacks on the sultans," an analyst said. However, Malaysian law forbids public discussion on the position of the rulers and anyone viewed as inciting hatred against the rulers can be charged and jailed under the Sedition Act.

The Inspector-General of Police Haniff Omar issued a warning early last week, saying that if any Malaysian wanted to discuss the rights and powers of the monarchy, he had to do so with extreme caution. "Before any discussion on the rights and powers of the rulers, everyone concerned should understand that the position of the rulers was defined as an integral part of the country's Constitution.

"People should be aware of the rights, powers and privileges of the rulers and the limitations of the powers of Parliament and the state legislative assemblies," he said.

Quite to the contrary however, Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who is seen in many quaters in UMNO as the next in line to be prime minister, was quoted in the government-controlled NEW STRAITS TIMES as saying the party had a responsibility to explain to society the position and role of the palace, the Constitution and Parliament in the country.

"Constitutional monarchy is the system under which rulers rule in this country and parliamentary democracy will be defended as the people decide on policies through the general election," he told an UMNO delegates meeting in the northern state of Penang. But UMNO itself is divided on whether the involvement of the palace in politics should be discussed or not.

Johor Baru UMNO division chief Shahrir Samad, in an essay in the influential Malay publication WATAN, said the matter should be tackled by the national and state party leadership, adding that "it could be unwise and improper to debate it at the General Assembly,"

Shahrir, a former Cabinet minister, defended the monarchy by saying that the palace had a unique relationship with UMNO because the party was formed in the Johor palace grounds in 1946, and the party's flag was first flown by the father of the present Kedah state sultan.

A social scientist in Kuala Lumpur, who declined to be named, said the debate could stir up a crisis among the Malays, because traditionally Malays have never questioned the powers of the rulers.

"Malay subjects have never been disloyal or treacherous to their rulers, even if their rulers behave cruelly or unjustly towards them. If this debate is carried out, the ordinary Malay would begin to question whether UMNO is higher than the palace or not. It just goes against what they have traditionally believed all the while," he said.

In 1983, a near crisis developed when Premier Mahathir incurred the wrath of the Malay rulers when he amended the Constitution to prevent rulers from rejecting bills passed by Parliament when it comes to them for formal royal assent.

In a further concerted effort to isolate the opposition government of Kelantan, Mahathir has decided to exclude the state from the meetings of the country's chief ministers.

The social reform group Aliran in a recent statement criticized Mahathir's move as "partisan and sectarian". Its president Dr Chandra Muzaffar said Mahathir's action was a challenge to the federal system.

"In a federal system of government which practices competitive politics, there is always the possibility of state governments coming under the control of opposition parties. But the principles of federalism should be upheld even when this happens," he said.

"Mahathir should not be so petty and vindictive and should instead show that he is capable of accepting the realities of a federation," he added.

Singapore

Leaders Meet Indonesian Minister Radius Prawiro

BK2311130590 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Nov 90

[Text] The Indonesian coordinating minister for economics, financial and industrial affairs and development supervision, Dr. Radius Prawiro, has called on Mr. Lee Kuan Yew.

Earlier in the day, the Indonesian minister called on the First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong. Dr. Radius Prawiro is on a two-day visit at Mr. Goh's invitation. He is accompanied by Mr.T. Ariwibowo, the Indonesian senior minister for industry.

Dr. Radius Prawiro has also met the finance minister, Dr. Richard Hu, and the trade and industry minister, Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong.

Cambodia

Dumas Says Factions Must Agree Before Meeting

BK2811031690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0121 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Paris, Nov 28 (AFP)—France, along with Indonesia, is ready to convene a new international conference on Cambodia on condition that the Cambodian factions

Burma

$1.2 Billion Arms Deal With PRC Reported

BK2711004890 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Nov 90 p 1

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] China and Burma have recently signed a $1.2 billion arms deal, with the next dispatch, comprising 12 F-6 jet fighters, scheduled to arrive in Burma in the third week of December.

A reliable diplomatic source told THE NATION yesterday that the squadron of jet fighters was among a long list of war weaponry and materials Rangoon has already received or will later obtain under a pact signed between top military leaders of both countries about three months ago.

The agreement is said to be a unilateral programme amounting to $1.2 billion worth of assistance, according to the source.

Included in the military aid package is a training programme for Burmese military personnel under which some 400-600 Burmese officers will undergo training in Chinese cities, including those in close-by Yunnan Province.

The source said as recently as last month seven overland convoys carrying small arms and ammunitions arrived in Mandalay and central Burma from China.

Under the pact, Beijing is to provide 60 medium-size tanks, 25 anti-aircraft guns with multiple barrels, a number of 120-mm and 105-mm howitzers, six 30-knot patrol boats, a squadron (12) of F-7 jet fighters (a modification of the Soviet MiG-21) capable of aerial combat, a squadron (12) of F-6 attack fighters (a modification of the Soviet MiG-19) capable of air-to-ground combat, a number of shoulder-fired HTM 5-A missiles, and nine armoured personnel carriers, among other military items, according to the source.

The source said some of the military equipment had already arrived in Burma while more will arrive soon, with the next shipment being the 12 F-6 jet fighters arriving next month.

Burmese Ambassador to Thailand U Nyunt Swe and Burmese military attache Col Ba Hein could not be reached for comment yesterday, but the first secretary of the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok, U Tin Htoon, said he has "no knowledge of the information."

U Aung Article Urges Benevolence From SLORC

BK2611021790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Nov 90 p A11

[Article by U Aung, leader of the Alliance for Democratic Solidarity, Union of Burma, son of former Burmese premier U Nu entitled "Whither Burma, as Long as Military is in Power"]

[Text] Burma's hope for a peaceful transfer of power to the civilians by the military junta is shattered. In fact, Burma is hoping against hope. SLORC (State Law and order Restoration Council) has systematically denied the transfer of power. The tiger may, out of desperation, turn vegetarian, but for SLORC, power is to cherish.

With more than 50 NLD (National League for Democracy) people's representatives in jail and without any responsible leadership, the remaining NLD leaders agreed to go along with the procedure of transfer of power laid down by SLORC. By this act, the NLD totally fractured irreparably, has betrayed the Gandhi Declaration and most importantly, betrayed the people's trust.

The truth of the matter is, the NLD had but to succumb to the pressures of SLORC. We regret immensely that the most responsible political group could not grasp the opportunity to implement the wishes of the people.

Despite the fact that SLORC is, at the moment, a de facto regime, it can never be more than an armed usurper. From the legal point of view, according to the constitution adopted in 1947, Section 97(1) states that "The right to raise and maintain military, naval and air forces is vested exclusively in the Parliament."

This clause may have been one of the reasons why Ne Win never abrogated that constitution even though he adopted a new constitution. Now SLORC had said that the 1947 constitution as well as the 1974 constitution are obsolete, thus there is no legally constituted army in Burma anymore, but only an armed group that is imposing its will upon the people.

Of course, any armed group can act any way it pleases but no matter what they do, their acts cannot be claimed as legal. SLORC, in the eye of the law, is a group of thieves, who claim that they are going to transfer the title of the stolen property at some undefined future.

But the legal title of stolen possession cannot by passed on to anyone by a thief. SLORC has no authority to trasfer any state power, only the people who are sovereign can do so.

SLORC is holding the country under duress without which they would have been long gone. They have opened multi-directional fronts against students, workers, the general public and now the monks, the most revered group in Burma.

In Burma the name Nga Pwa-gyi is well-known, a derogatory meaning the one who does not get along with anyone—the one against the entire village. SLORC, the Nga Pwa-gyi of Burma, who is without compunction, dares to defrock the monks and thereby have become "Dhama-man-dareh", meaning the foes of the Dharma.

The vow of excommunication that some monks took since Sept 5 is known as "Part-ta Neik Koke Zana Kan". According to the Buddha's teachings, this vow can be settle their "remaining differences," Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Tuesday.

Speaking in parliament here, Mr. Dumas said that France "without yielding to discouragement, has made ever-increasing efforts to restart the negotiation process, which was threatening to get bogged down in indifference, particularly from the superpowers."

France and Indonesia are the two co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, which last met in August but failed to reach a conclusion. However, at the weekend officials from the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States—plus the two chairmen, met here and agreed on the basic documents for a future Cambodian settlement.

All that remains now is for the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government and the three resistance factions opposing it to agree on concrete steps, particularly the exact composition of a future transitional authority to run the country.

Mr. Dumas said that France wanted to "allow the former Indochina, the misery of which makes a striking contrast with the prosperity of the Southeast Asian region, to at last get down to the tasks of reconstruction."

French Adviser Extends Paris Meeting Invitation

BK2711133090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1309 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Nov 27 (AFP)—Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong will leave for Paris in the next few days, a ministry official said.

"A visit is planned" to Paris in the next few days, the source said, without elaborating or giving details of Mr. Hor Namhong's business in France. The foreign minister is due to meet foreign journalists here Wednesday. The official did not know if Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnam-installed government would also be travelling to the French capital.

Observers noted that Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk had Sunday called for an urgent meeting of the three China-backed resistance parties and the Phnom Penh Government in a bid to iron out their differences and bring peace closer.

Jacques Van Minden, an external trade advisor to the French Administration, handed this government Tuesday a formal invitation from Prince Sihanouk to the "fraternal meeting," officials said. Mr. Van Minden flew in here Tuesday from Paris on Air Liberte—the first direct flight from France in more than 15 years. He said the invitation was to all the members of the joint interim authority, the Supreme National Council (SNC), which groups six Phnom Penh members, including Mr. Hun Sen, with six from the resistance coalition.

The SNC, set up in September under a U.N. brokered accord, has met only once because of unresolved differences over its composition and leadership. Prince Sihanouk's call came the same day the five United Nations Security Council permanent members plus Indonesia agreed on the final draft of a 12-page peace settlement they were to submit to the four warring parties.

Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States and Indonesia issued a statement saying their three-day meeting in Paris had achieved positive results. They said it was now up to the Cambodian rivals to resolve the differences that have stalled forward movement in the peace process.

Uch Kim-an, head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department, said here Tuesday the government had heard overseas reports on the meeting. But he added, "We have not yet received any information" from the participants on results of their meeting or their draft so the government could not yet comment. He also believed close attention should be given to Prince Sihanouk's invitation to determine whether or not he was trying to ignore the SNC. Mr. Kim-an said, however, that it was "high time and absolutely necessary that we should reach an agreement" to end the 20-year suffering in Cambodia.

Border Police Report Two Thais Taken Hostage

BK2711152290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 26 (AFP)—Some 30 Cambodians, who earlier robbed an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) ambulance transporting wounded guerrillas to a border hospital, have taken two Thai hostages, border police said.

Police, who have launched a hunt for the gang, suspected to belong to the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), said the robbers took the hostages Tuesday after killing the driver of a truck. They said the group was moving towards Bantat mountain along the Thai-Cambodian border near Site 2, a border camp housing Cambodian refugees which is run by the KPNLF.

More than 100 Thai officers were mobilized together with helicopters in the hunt for the robbers who were armed with rocket propelled grenades, AK-47 and M-16 rifles and other weapons. Police said the operation was carefully planned to ensure the safety of the hostages but added a clash seemed "inevitable."

On Monday the group robbed an ICRC ambulance with an unidentified number of guerrillas loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk aboard some 250 kilometers (150 miles) east of here, police had said. They opened fire on the ambulance to destroy the radio system and made off with the valuables of two ICRC officials, who were wounded by the gunshots, police said. They said the occupants of the ambulance later arrived at the Khao I-dang hospital.

Both the KPNLF and Prince Sihanouk's faction are loosely allied to the Marxist Khmer Rouge in a tripartite resistance coalition fighting the Phnom Penh government.

Police described the route as dangerous, saying there have been at least 10 cases of robbery in the area this year. Last month the Burapa task force, which oversees security at the border, set up a special unit to tackle the problem.

Hostages Reported Released

BK2811060790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0602 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Bangkok, Nov 28 (AFP)—Two Thai hostages held by Cambodian thieves who had earlier robbed an ambulance crew of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and killed a truck driver have been freed, border police said Wednesday.

The hostages were taken Tuesday afternoon as the 30-strong gang were being chased by police, but were freed as the chase continued into the evening. The hunt for the bandits continued Wednesday with more than 100 police, using helicopters and armoured cars, involved. The gang are believed to be hiding in the jungle on the border mountain of Bantat.

Before the kidnap the gang had stopped an ICRC ambulance ferrying three wounded guerrillas loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk to Khao I-Dang Hospital and robbed two ICRC officials of money and valuables. The thieves also fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a passing 10-wheel truck, killing the driver. Thai troops are now patrolling the route in the area, where there have been at least 10 reported cases of robbery.

Hun Sen Discusses SNC Role, Chairmanship

BK2711125390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Nov 90

[Speech by "Comrade Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, at a mass rally in Battambang Province"; date not given—recorded]

[Text] First of all allow me to pay my homage to all venerable monks. Dear compatriots attending this meeting: I am very happy to return to Battambang Province again. This year, I have come to Battambang Province four times. During these four times, I went to hot spots where the enemies have wreaked great havoc, such as in Ratanamondol and Bavel Districts.

To show our goodwill and to end the conflict peacefully, Vietnamese troops were withdrawn from Cambodia 15 months ahead of schedule. According to the schedule announced by the three countries in 1985, the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops should be undertaken at the end of 1990, that is more than a month from now. Because we wanted peace and a political solution, however, we agreed to withdraw the Vietnamese troops 15 months ahead of the deadline, hoping that the other side as well as those countries supporting it would agree to cease supplying military aid to the other factions and would advance toward negotiations in order to settle the problem peacefully. It is, however, regrettable that our goodwill was tested with the Cambodian people's flesh and blood. We pulled Vietnamese troops out after receiving guarantees from a number of countries that after this pullout, foreign countries would stop providing weapons and ammunition to the other Cambodian side. After the Vietnamese troop pullout from Cambodia, however, those people did not honor their promise to end military aid but instead increased all types of military aid, including heavy weaponry, to reactionary Cambodians to carry out the so-called trial of strength on the battlefield for six months. This in reality would be a trial [illegible] the sufferings, grief, and flesh and blood of our Cambodian people. This is most regrettable. They talked about peace, about their love for peace, and their desire for peace, but they have instead launched heavy attacks against us, creating untold destruction for our people, especially those in Battambang Province, including Ratanamondol and Bavel Districts which have been most affected. This is what the other side calls goodwill. They have refused to respond to our goodwill. They talk about peace, but what they really want is—pure illusion, of course—to grab Battambang Province and use it as a stepping stone for attacks against the rest of the country. They talk only of brute force. For this reason, they do not care too much about the search for peace for Cambodia.

In a speech I made a few days ago, I said that not only Pol Pot wants to continue the war. Even Samdech Sihanouk and Son Sann, despite their talks about the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem, still cooperate with Pol Pot to attack us.

Samdech Sihanouk warned me in Paris that if the Vietnamese troops pulled out of Cambodia, the Hun Sen government would be blown off the ground like a piece of paper. A month later, he announced that if the Vietnamese troops pulled out, the Phnom Penh regime and the Hun Sen government would collapse immediately. Two months after the Vietnamese troop pullout, he shouted over the Radio Free Asia [as heard] in France appealing to our people to defect to the side of the Khmer Rouge because there was a great possibility of the Khmer Rouge returning to power as in 1975. He did not appeal to our people to block off the genocidal Khmer Rouge, but he vociferously called on our people to join the Khmer Rouge in order to restore to power the genocidal Pol Pot regime. In Bangkok, when I met with Samdech Sihanouk in February 1990, I had the opportunity to hold direct, tete-a-tete talks with him. I informed Samdech Sihanouk there and then that we should cease the fighting, that is, implement a voluntary cease-fire, and we should stop receiving foreign military aid. At that time, Samdech Sihanouk said this to me: Your Excellency is asking me to ask the tripartite army to stop fighting. Does this mean that you are afraid that your regime would fall? I said: Samdech, you misunderstand strategy. You should know that Phnom Penh still has many options to attack. You wait and see if you [word indistinct]. You misinterpret Phnom Penh's goodwill in wishing for a cease-fire and an end to foreign military aid intended for the kindling of the flames of war and expansion of the civil war in Cambodia, and you distort it into claims that Phnom Penh is afraid of defeat. Now the samdech can see. After more than a year of military testing, the samdech now understands. What are Pol Pot and Son Sann up to apart from committing banditry; massacring people; and destroying schools, monasteries, houses, bridges, and roads? How far have they gotten? Have they controlled Battambang Province yet? Have they controlled Phnom Penh yet? They remain in exile, some in Beijing, some in Pyongyang, and others in France.

[Words indistinct] the administration remains the one completely controlled by the Phnom Penh regime. Therefore, how many more years of fighting will we have to go through before the problem is settled?

I attended the Jakarta meeting last September. After tricking me into going to Jakarta, Samdech Sihanouk boycotted the meeting and even planted a time bomb in the meeting ground in the form of a proposal of his own. In this proposal, he said that even though the three groups of resistance fighters had the possibility of liberating Cambodia in the not-too-distant future, the coalition government would not slow down the efforts for peace. This is contradictory. On the one hand, they said they were capable of liberating Phnom Penh, of liberating all of Cambodia, but on the other hand, they said they wanted to negotiate. For this reason, it can be seen that they believe more in their military victory in order to continue slaughtering the Cambodian people and bring the genocidal regime back to Cambodia. At that time, Samdech Sihanouk boasted that the resistance groups had liberated tens of thousands of villages, thousands of communes, and hundreds of districts. I then sarcastically retorted that if that was true Hun Sen should ask for political asylum in Indonesia because it would not be possible for him to return to Cambodia. Why did I say so? This is because there are only 156 districts in Cambodia and Samdech Sihanouk claimed to have liberated hundreds of them, which are more than the existing 156 districts. Consequently, there would be no place for me to live. So I sarcastically hinted that I'd better request political asylum in Indonesia: I would not be able to return to Cambodia.

This was a wicked propaganda tactic. It was an extraordinary lie. It was a tricky one that would backfire on its own author. In fact, where is Sihanouk now? He left Beijing for Paris a few days ago. Yesterday, so I heard, there was a dinner between Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann. I still have no information yet about what the two were discussing. At the same time, the big five together with Indonesia as the co-chairman of the conference also met in Paris on Cambodia. So far, however, I have not received any information about the progress of this meeting.

What I am proud of is the fact that I have made efforts to come to hot spots in the 5th Military Region, which includes Pursat and Battambang Provinces, and the 4th Military Region, which comprises Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap Provinces. At times I even visited remote places such as Ratanamondol and Bavel. Along those roads I usually got out and had a look at how people live. Here in Battambang provincial town, I took the time to visit the market to assess the real situation.

True enough, the feats of the people of Battambang Province and the armed forces at all levels have enabled Battambang Province not only to stay in a militarily defensive situation, but also in a militarily offensive situation. Not only has this caused no low morale to the people of Battambang, but it has allowed the people to live in near normalcy. Normal trading activities can be observed in all market places. It is true that prices have gone up. This is normal in a country at war. In countries at peace, prices still go up. This is economic law. What is important is that our people have preserved their daily life despite fierce attacks by the enemies. We have created conditions for production work. Compared to the Lon Nol regime, we fare a lot better. In the Lon Nol regime, people could not really go out to carry out production work. Lon Nol only controlled a number of district and provincial seats. Some districts and provinces were lost. Now Phnom Penh has stood firmly more than a year after the Vietnamese troop pullout from Cambodia.

Elderly persons on the other side must now be reminded that it is time to clearly realize the military measures they wanted cannot bring victory. The military trial, which in reality is the trial in the lives, property, flesh, and blood of the Cambodian people and in the mountains of woe and grief of the Cambodian people can only bring countless instances of destruction for the Cambodian people. I would like to inform you that my task has been a difficult one. I have been making contacts with the other side for nearly three years now, just eight days short of three years. It will be three years in eight days. It was on 2 December 1987 that the party, government, and people of Cambodia assigned me to negotiate with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and attend many subsequent talks in various other international forums. It has been difficult. The other side talks only of brute force, giving scant attention to peace and security for the Cambodian people. They have sought by all means, pretexts, and methods. Let me stress that after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, they showed nothing but contempt for their own Cambodian countrymen. It is unbelievable that Cambodians could look down so contemptibly on fellow Cambodians. How? Let me tell you. They knew very well that Vietnamese troops had really pulled out, but in order to have the pretext to attack the Phnom Penh government and the Cambodian people, they charged that there are 1.25 million Vietnamese in Cambodia and that they are married to Cambodian wives or husbands. This not only is a slander in order to attack the Cambodian people, but also contempt for our Cambodian people. They charged that our young women and young men are sexually subjected to the Vietnamese. Are our young women and young men indignant about this matter? [Words indistinct] how many Vietnamese residents are there? There were quite a few in the past, but how many are they now? Are they so numerous that the other side has reason to look down on us? This is not just a slander for attack, but it has become a scorn, a contempt for our people. They seem to imply that we have nothing to the point that our women are being taken as wives by the Vietnamese, that our Cambodian children are being forced to learn Vietnamese, and that Cambodians are being forced to wear Vietnamese clothes. This is the contempt shown us by the other Cambodian side.

The other Cambodian side does not know Cambodians at all. They have been living abroad for too long, and perhaps they are too old. This would explain how they got things mixed up. Some are 79 years old, others 69, and some nearly 60. They have spread vicious propaganda and look down on our people. What I am saying today is not just for the people in Battambang Province. My speech will be broadcast by radio and television stations in Phnom Penh. Can we allow unjust slander against us?

It is so unjust. In Samdech Sihanouk's time, there were 500,000 Vietnamese nationals and residents. Now there are just over 70,000. Before the Vietnamese troop pullout there were over 80,000. Out of fear of Pol Pot, after the Vietnamese troop pullout, over 10,000 Vietnamese residents returned home. Only just over 70,000 remain. The opposing side, however, says there are 1.25 million Vietnamese residents in Cambodia who married Cambodians. We have been accused of cross-breeding with another ethnic group. This is a very serious offense. Youths throughout the country, please remember. Our women and girls and men are being accused.

We do not prohibit mixed marriages. People can marry ethnic groups of their choice. It is their right. Look at Samdech Sihanouk. His wife is not Cambodian. Monique Sihanouk is from a different ethnic group. Therefore, one should clearly understand the question of freedom of choosing one's spouse. We cannot prohibit Cambodians who take refuge abroad from marrying foreign wives. We cannot interfere in the people's feeling and desire in choosing their partners. What is most unfair, however, is that while we married fellow Cambodians, they charge that we married the Vietnamese. Therefore, our young women and young men throughout the country should grasp this matter. Not only the youths, but their parents are indignant at such an injustice. They not only slander in order to attack us, but they look down on our nation.

This is why I have already talked about this question the other day. It was most unfair to us. I told Son Sann and Samdech Sihanouk point blank about that.

In Jakarta, Son Sann told me there are 1.25 million Vietnamese nationals living in Cambodia, disguised as Cambodian troops and officials in the Cambodian administration; they speak Cambodian. I said: His Excellency Son Sann, we should stick to the truth. We are all Buddhists. You are a Cambodian born in Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of south Vietnam]. You are now 78 years old and cannot speak Cambodian well. You still have a Vietnamese accent. He cannot even pronounce the word chhiem [blood], saying "siem" instead. Listen to Son Sann and you will see that he cannot speak Cambodian well. Just think, a Cambodian born in Kampuchea Kraom, who is now 78 years old, still cannot speak Cambodian well. How can a Vietnamese, who has been living in Cambodia for about 10 years, be expected to speak Cambodian well? No, the Vietnamese will not be able to speak it well. I would like to specify that only a small number of Vietnamese people can speak other languages well. The Chinese living in Cambodia can learn faster to speak Cambodian well. How can the Vietnamese speak Cambodian well if Son Sann, who is 78-79 years old, still does not speak the language well? The accusation was so unfair that I could not help but hit back. During the first day of the meeting I blurted out that observation to him. On the second day of the meeting, when he arrived at the meeting he said: Your Excellency Hun Sen, after thinking it over for a night I feel that your attack on me was quite serious. I answered: Your Excellency Son Sann, what I said was quite mild as it was said among Cambodians in the meeting. It cannot be compared to your attacks on me over the Voice of America and over your own radio.

In France, when we had a luncheon together, Samdech Sihanouk again started: His Excellency Hun Sen, now 1.25 million Vietnamese are living in Cambodia and they are marrying Cambodian wives and husbands...I was shocked. We were having lunch and he raised such a matter. I said: Okay, if 1.25 million Vietnamese had married Cambodians, it would mean that the samdech's relatives too were married to the Vietnamese, everybody must be married to them, including the relatives of all the leaders of the tripartite coalition living in the country. Now nobody can blame anyone. 1.25 million Vietnamese would need 1.25 million spouses. This is a lot of people. Let us say 1 million Cambodian women and 250,000 Cambodian men would be needed. This would certainly include the relatives of the samdech and the other leaders of the tripartite coalition, too.

So, this accusation against Phnom Penh was extremely unfair. It was unfair not only in terms of how it slandered Phnom Penh, but also in its contempt against our people. At present, our education is developing throughout the country. In the past there were only 800,000-900,000 students. Now there are 1.8 million students. Do they study Vietnamese or Cambodian? All students and all teachers should think about this. They hold this in contempt. They say our women are wearing Vietnamese clothes. It would be more correct to say that Cambodians are dressing like Thais, Hong Kong Chinese, or Europeans. It is impossible for Cambodians to be dressed like

Vietnamese. Completely impossible. Like Thais, like Hong Kong Chinese, or like Europeans yes, we admit it. In Cambodia it is the disco era now. The people of Battambang, too, are dressed up in modern sartorial attire. Let us look around. Is there anyone dressed up in a Vietnamese long robe? They accuse us of being dressed up in Vietnamese long robes. They are most unfair toward us. It is their pretext to attack us, for one beats a cat only when one accuses the cat of stealing the fish.

I would like to inform all venerable monks and all compatriots of the following: Wherever I go the people, the monks always ask me "when will the war end?" I would like to stress to all that you should ask Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Pol Pot when the war will end because it is they who have caused the war. We have not caused the war. We are waging the war now in order to prevent the return to power of the genocidal Pol Pot regime only.

We do not want to wage war. We hate war because war has been going on in our country for over 20 years. We are not the initiators of the war. It is the Lon Nol group, which is currently the Son Sann group, and Samdech Sihanouk who instigate war by creating problems which are followed by a coup d'etat. We do not directly accuse Samdech Sihanouk, but we directly accuse the Americans and Lon Nol who instigated war. Afterward, it was the Pol Pot group, with Sihanouk in it, which started a genocidal regime.

Are we willing to let others kill us or are we going to fight back? It is an inexorable objective law that where there is oppression there is struggle. Therefore, we had to struggle to topple the genocidal Pol Pot regime, and during the past 11-12 years we have been forced to wage a war that has been imposed on us. We have had no other option. We have been seeking to negotiate everywhere. We would join talks anywhere because we want the talks to end the war peacefully. Those people, however, are warmongers. They are are old and yet they love to make war. Allow me to tell you one story. At the third meeting between Samdech Sihanouk and me in 1988, Samdech Sihanouk, Son Sann, and I were having a meal together. During that lunch they talked too much about politics. Maybe I was a little too rude when, fed up with the political conversation, I asked the prince to talk about something else. I said: Let us talk about the fish of Tonle Sap Lake or the fish of Battambang instead. You talk so much politics that I can hardly swallow my food.

I feel I was a little too rude to him. It did not dawn on me that he did not have any fish of Tonle Sap or Battambang to boast about. Only Phnom Penh has it. This means he could not talk. I was not thinking about that. When we reached that point he returned to politics again. So he talked politics again and then he said: Your Excellency Hun Sen, if we cannot talk to each other, let us fight. He challenged me to the fight just like that. In 1988, Samdech Sihanouk was 68 years old [ayu hok sep pram bei]. No, Samdech Sihanouk's age was 68 [preah chun, preah chunameayu—Sancrit-Pali compound used in royal language], I should use a polite language [laughter]. I said Son Sann was 78; I was only 36 then. I am sorry, Samdech Sihanouk was 67, Son Sann 77, and myself—my real age was then only 36, but because I was too young, I added one more year to be 37. All with the number 7. If you play a lottery game, you would win a big prize [laughter]. To cut that complicated story short, I said: I have come here to end the war through negotiations; however, if the samdech is calling on me to fight, I have no choice but to fight. Do not forget, however, that if we fight for another 20 years, I would then be only 57. Then, there was complete silence. You could hear a pin drop. What did that mean? It meant that if the fight went on for another 20 years, I would be only 57. The samdech then made an addition—67 plus 20 is 87—realizing he may not be around [laughter]. Son Sann also did the same—77 plus 20—and realized he may not be around [laughter]. I said: I did not mean to say that in 20 years the samdech and His Excellency would be dead. No I did not mean that. I would only like to say that by then I would only be 57 [laughter]. In a political language, this is enough.

So, I would like to make it clear that they only want to fight. Later on, we disagreed again during a joint commission meeting. Somebody presented a report that was not well received. The other side was furious and again challenged us to fight again. We have no option when they ask us to fight. We have to fight because should we refrain from fighting, Pol Pot would return. Not Sihanouk, not Son Sann, but Pol Pot would return. Therefore, in this question, I stress again and again that we hate war. We negotiate to end the war. But they do not want to end it. Consequently, those who ask me when the war would end should go and ask Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Pol Pot because they are the ones who want to fight forever. This war cannot end. Even though we want peace, they keep beckoning us to fight. We urge them to observe a cease-fire, but they do not respond. In Bangkok recently I said let us stop fighting, let us set a deadline for a cease-fire, and all of us should stop receiving military aid. They refused to talk to me about that. What can we do? And they keep looking for ways to torpedo our efforts. During talks, if I signed an agreement with Samdech Sihanouk, Son Sann and Khieu Samphan would reject it. During the Jakarta meeting, Son Sann, Khieu Samphan, and Ranariddh agreed with me to meet within the framework of the Paris conference. Samdech Sihanouk turned out to be the obstacle to that settlement.

There are a number of conflicting issues I would like to talk about now. The other day, I conveyed these to Son Sann. Now I would like to reveal them to compatriots nationwide as well as to the countries and parties involved in solving the Cambodian problem.

I would like to deal with a number of points, including the issue about the Supreme National Council [SNC], the UN role, and the military. Let us talk first of the SNC. We have proposed the formation of this SNC—formerly called the National Reconciliation Council—since 1988, but the other side rejected it. At the Paris conference in 1989 we again proposed the formation of the SNC and they rejected it again. They wanted to dissolve our government and set up a quadripartite government that would also include Pol Pot. We disagreed. They had the illusion that just a few months after the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops they would be able to attack and topple the Phnom Penh regime immediately through the use of military force.

They could not, however, topple it after trying for one full year. They then began agreeing to set up the SNC. If they had agreed to do so since the Paris conference, our people would not have suffered so much during the past year. If they had to accept it anyway, why did they have to make the military trial first? They refused to set it up, but finally they had to accept the establishment of the SNC. Now that it has been set up, the SNC still faces two major problems. I would like to inform all venerable monks about these problems as follows:

First, there is the question of choosing a chairman and second, there is the question of the SNC's role. Regarding this chairmanship question, it is like this: There is a stalemate. Maybe my compatriots have already learned about it over the Phnom Penh radio, Phnom Penh television, Battambang radio, and Battambang television. The problem of Samdech Sihanouk is a kind of a self-knotting noose that Son Sann and Khieu Samphan try to tighten. If they bind themselves and tighten the rope themselves, why should we help loosen it for them? No, sir, we are not going to do it. In Cambodian chess terminology, the present game sees Samdech Sihanouk's king on the verge of being checkmated and I am not responsible for his king being cornered at all. He cannot move right for he is blocked by the knight. Nor can he move left as he is blocked by a rook. But Son Sann mistakes our rook for a promoted pawn. Over a month ago he thought it was a promoted pawn. He thought that he still had a move left against a promoted pawn. And he wanted to use that move. He is too old. He is 69 years old already and has failing eyesight. So, he mistook a rook for a promoted pawn. Of course, in a real game of chess he is not allowed to take the king. No, sir, if he plays with Phnom Penh he is not allowed to take the king. If you move away the rook, we will take the king with our ship.

Now there remains a free pawn that is allowed to move. We just wait to see when you encroach. Then, we will checkmate you. How can you move if your king is already pinned down? This is like in the chess game. Yes, in the past, Son Sann mistook our rook for a pawn. He thought he could play a nine-step chess game. He wanted to move back, but he could not. There are only eight steps in a chess game. If you move back too much you fall off. Son Sann tried to juggle and turn the game into a nine-step chess game. No you cannot, sir. With this emphasis from me, maybe those of you on the other side have a clearer vision. This is because you are bound up, you should help free yourselves. I am not going to help you out.

This is the way it is. Before the Jakarta meeting, on 9 April, that is four days before the Cambodian New Year, Samdech Sihanouk made a proposal from the Thai province of Surin adjacent to our border saying that an SNC would be set up with six members from the Phnom Penh side and six members from the tripartite coalition, making up 12 members. After that I met with General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Thai deputy prime minister and minister of national defense. We agreed with each other that the SNC should have an equal number of members from both sides. And the content of my talks with the Thai army chief was submitted by the Thai army chief for discussion with the other side. Afterwards, following that agreement, the Japanese and Thai prime ministers met in Thailand in May 1990 and agreed to arrange a meeting in Japan between the two Cambodian sides. Once in Japan, Khieu Samphan boycotted the meeting while Samdech Sihanouk and Son Sann attended.

During the signing, it was stressed that an SNC was to be established on the basis of equality between the two sides and that it would convene no later than the end of July. After signing the joint statement, Samdech Sihanouk, who attended the meeting, declared that this SNC would be set up by six members from Phnom Penh and another six from the tripartite coalition. In case the Khmer Rouge refused to join, there would be three members from the Sihanoukist faction and three from the Son Sann group. In total there would be 12 members—six from Phnom Penh and three each from the two opposition groups. In case the Khmer Rouge joined, Son Sann would take out one and Sihanouk one while two members would be contributed by the Khmer Rouge. It would be a 2 plus 2 plus 2 equal 6 plus 6 from Phnom Penh equal 12.

Following that meeting, the big five met and issued a document. The co-chairmen of the Paris conference called a meeting in Jakarta. In Jakarta there was a complication about the meeting. Samdech Sihanouk first said he would not go. When Samdech Sihanouk said he would not go, I said I was not going, too. When he said he would go but would not attend the meeting, I also said I would go but would not attend either. My reason was that it was stressed that in the document Samdech Sihanouk had signed in Tokyo, Samdech Sihanouk could not represent Son Sann and Khieu Samphan. For that reason, I thought that if Samdech Sihanouk in his capacity as the president could not represent Prime Minister Son Sann and the Khmer Rouge vice president, vice versa, it would be less likely that Prime Minister Son Sann and the Khmer Rouge vice president could represent President Sihanouk. It was why I declared that if Samdech Sihanouk did not attend the meeting, I would not attend either. If Samdech Sihanouk behaved like a football player, I would behave like one myself. If the samdech acted like a trainer, I would act like a trainer, too.

This, according to Son Sann, constituted the lack of regard shown by Hun Sen and it greatly irritated Samdech Sihanouk. For this reason, I have concluded that the older he is, the more irritable he becomes. In politics, I never use bad language. As for Samdech Sihanouk, he calls me names, he calls me blind, lame, and so on. I never answer. No, sir, I have never called him names in return. I always behave politely toward him. But politically, the samdech had to say that. He announced that he was irritated by Hun Sen's lack of respect. So he skipped the meeting.

Yes, he did everything. He sought by all means to avoid the meeting. While boycotting the meeting, he issued a new plan. It is this plan that I regard as the noose binding Samdech Sihanouk, a noose that Son Sann and Khieu Samphan are tightening. According to this plan, an SNC would be set up with six members from Phnom Penh, two from the Sihanoukist group, two from the Son Sann group, and two from the Pol Pot group, making a total of 12 members and, should the 12 members wish, they may elect a chairman who, in that case, would become the 13th member. Samdech Sihanouk [words indistinct] the tripartite coalition there was a list of 13 members with Samdech Sihanouk as the first member [words indistinct] above the demand made by Samdech Sihanouk. In his plan, he proposed only 12 members and should these 12 members wish they may elect a 13th member as chairman. This 13th member was not named or identified as Sihanouk or anyone else.

At that time, Sihanouk suddenly announced a six-month leave of absence from all of his duties. He said he wanted six months of rest. So this came as a surprise to both the tripartite coalition as well as our side and the cochairmen of the conference. In particular, on our side and the co-chairmen of the conference, we did know what to do as the samdech said he took leave. As a result, we set up the 12 members and I [words indistinct] said the 13th member was the egg and the 12 members are the hen. The egg should not come before the hen. The hen should come first, meaning that there should be the 12 members first. Only if the 12 wish, there could be the 13th. I informed the cochairmen of the conference that the hen from Phnom Penh was eggless. This means that there would not be any 13th member. No, there would not be. We founded a 12-member SNC already recognized by the United Nations. It did not include Samdech Sihanouk at all.

I announced that if Samdech Sihanouk did not attend the meeting, I would not attend either. This might lead to the collapse of the meeting. In order to salvage the meeting, I agreed to attend. Before, we said we would not attend because there was no Sihanouk. But then we said we agreed to attend even without Sihanouk. I met with the press and told them that in order to save the meeting from failure I became a surgeon trying to save the life of a patient. Although I did not know whether Samdech Sihanouk was diplomatically sick or really sick, I decided to attend the meeting. This is what I said to the press. At that time, I did not know and did not accuse the samdech of pretending to be sick. I only said I did not know whether the samdech was diplomatically sick, pretended to be sick, or was really sick. Six days later, we knew that Samdech Sihanouk pretended to be sick, diplomatically sick. Because six days after he said he would take a six-month leave, he asked me to accept him as chairman.

I would like to talk about this. He sent a message to his son Ranariddh in Bangkok. He said now we need to get the great chieftain Hun Sen to say yes. He called me the great chieftain. This means that I am bigger than him; he is only a king and I have become a great chieftain [laughter]. This is the title he gave me. So he said just get the great chieftain Hun Sen to say yes to accept him as chairman, he will assume the chairmanship and start working straight away. Thus, six months only lasted for six days. Do not think that a king does not know how to pretend or that he sticks to the truth. Only six days after, he came back to haunt others. It would have been alright if he had come back and asked nicely. But he even belittled others. It is the wrong way. I realize that Samdech Sihanouk acted as someone who does not know laws. How can this be? He asked Ranariddh to get only Hun Sen alone, great chieftain Hun Sen, to say yes and accept him as chairman. At that time, he did not read the document of the five major powers and the Jakarta document which state that the working procedure of the SNC is through consensus, that is through agreement with one another. Thus Hun Sen alone cannot decide; only the 12 can decide. He has been head of state for many years but does not understand laws. He wanted Hun Sen alone to decide. How can this be? Other people's rights should be respected. Not only the six on the other side should be respected but the five, apart from myself, should also be respected. Because I have two roles—first as prime minister—as such, if I wear this prime minister's cap, I can order anyone out there, be they ministers and officials, provincial or district governors. But if I wear the cap of an SNC member, I cannot order these persons because the SNC is not a government. Furthermore, the SNC has to function through consensus and agreement. Therefore, I am not the decisive voice in the SNC. The other side comprises laywers but they acted grossly. This is the first misunderstanding in the legal sense.

The second misunderstanding was the unjust interpretation. At the meeting in Bangkok as well as in the past month, or over a month, the Son Sann group, the Khieu Samphan group, and the other side have said the document of the five major powers and the Jakarta document all say that Samdech Sihanouk should be chosen as chairman. I said maybe they were absentminded because they are too old and their eyesight is bad.

In the Jakarta document there were two stages which I repeatedly specified to people in Battambang and those throughout the country.

At one stage, it says that if the 12 SNC members require, they could choose a chairman who, in this case, would become the 13th member. At another, nothing was said about the 13th member having to be Samdech Sihanouk and that he has to be chairman. It does not even say that Samdech Sihanouk has to be a member, let alone chairman. The other side, however, keeps repeating that Sihanouk has to be elected chairman because the document says so. No, no. You have [words indistinct] many times.

In the past, they said they would end military aid after Vietnam has withdrawn; but they launched even fiercer attacks against us. We signed the agreement in Paris, France, but they did not honor it. We signed an agreement in Tokyo. They did not honor it. They did not honor the promise in Jakarta. You cannot do this again at this hour because at the Jakarta meeting I asked Foreign Minister Ali Alatas about two major points. There were four points altogether but I will talk about two of them. Before the meeting, I asked: If the Jakarta meeting is successful, will Samdech Sihanouk be required to respect the results of the meeting or will the results be submitted to Samdech Sihanouk in Beijing for ratification? Ali Alatas answered that the meeting was within the framework of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] so therefore, everyone will have to respect this document and that it does not have to be ratified by Sihanouk. This is the first point. The second point is this. When the SNC was being set up and when Samdech Sihanouk announced his six-month leave, I asked the conference's cochairmen whether the 12-member SNC could function without Sihanouk? The cochairmen replied that it could.

The other day, a few days ago, I suggested to our Foreign Minister Comrade Hor Namhong to check with the Indonesian Foreign Minister in Hanoi to confirm this. People have interpreted that Samdech Sihanouk has to be chairman. No, no. You have many times violated ethics and goodwill. This time you will not be allowed to do so. We have already specified that if he dared to transgress or make wrong interpretations again, we will not let him be part of the SNC. Not only will we not allow him to be chairman, he will not even be allowed to be part of the SNC. They have not dare to do so in the past few days since my speech on the 18th [November] was broadcast over radio and television on 19th and 20th.

Now Ieng Muli [SNC member from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front] welcomed Samdech Sihanouk's proposal accepting Prime Minister Hun Sen as vice chairman. I heard this. If they do not submit a proposal in writing, however, Phnom Penh will not know about it. Why? You levelled an accusation against me. I would like to specify the principle of equality. The document of the five major powers talks about the principle of equality and that no party is allowed to dominate others. The negotiations from Bangkok to Tokyo talk about equality. If we talk about equality, I would not have agreed to be vice chairman, I should be cochairman. If Sihanouk is chairman, I should also be chairman. Or we can add more members. Heng Samrin and Chea Sim are chairman along with Sihanouk. [words indistinct] Hun Sen be chairman with Sihanouk.

Due to our understanding, however, at least we respect elderly people; we have agreed to let Samdech Sihanouk be chairman, and we, who hold power, I, be vice chairman. They have not only refused to let us be vice chairman but also want Sihanouk to be the 13th member, one more than us and also chairman on top of that. You have demanded too much. You buy my goods without paying; I am not going to let you have the goods. I would like to stress that this is a political negotiation. To search for a political solution, concessions should be made by both sides. You cannot just take. By allowing you into the SNC, as you are not even a member, and by letting you be chairman and I vice chairman, is a great gift to you already. You should clearly realize this. Now you continue to be arrogant. I, we, will not let Sihanouk be part of the SNC. If we do not allow it, then it will not happen. Now you can be as greedy as you want to until you die. I do not care because you are so insolent and so bad. Really bad.

Now you are tied up. Talking about a tie, you did this to yourself. Why should I bother to get you out of it? They are accusing us of wanting to change the contents of the Jakarta document. This is why Ieng Muli or Samdech Sihanouk said we have agreed to let Samdech Sihanouk's side have an extra member and Phnom Penh another. Thus, the formula has become seven plus seven equals 14, and no longer 12. No, no. You do not say you have accepted Hun Sen and Hun Sen's proposal to be vice chairman. Hear this: Hun Sen has not asked to be vice chairman. In accordance with the equality principle, he should be cochairman. By allowing you to be chairman, however, is a gift to you. You should clearly realize this. If you buy my goods without paying, I will not give you the goods. So, it is not our problem. They have tied themselves up.

You have only one move to make. Go on, try to find a way out. If you ask for it, I would agree. "Please His Excellency Hun Sen, please move that pawn out so that I can move." It can be done. If you ask nicely, I would consider opening the way for you. But this time, it should be done properly. A proposal should be submitted. A statement through the press is not valid. Now there are fax machines. Three minutes later, this would come through our machine in Phnom Penh. You must submit a nice proposal. Talking through AFP, UPI, or REUTER is not accetable. A proper proposal should be submitted. Doing this through the Paris conference's cochairmen is also not acceptable. You are so bad that I have to deal with you legalistically.

This is the crux of the issue. Now there are three options. The first option: The SNC will immediately start working without waiting for Sihanouk, if the world considers that the SNC is the key. The SNC is set up to solve the Cambodian problem and not to elect Sihanouk as chairman. I want to stress this one more time to the other side. The SNC is set up to solve the Cambodian problem and not to elect Sihanouk as chairman. Therefore, there should be no waiting for Sihanouk; the SNC will start working immediately. The lives of millions of suffering Cambodian people are more important than Sihanouk. This is the first choice.

The second choice. If you consider Sihanouk more important than the 12-member SNC, you should abolish it. We are not the ones to dissolve it; we want to start working immediately. It seems that the SNC, however, has already been dissolved. We do not want to accuse them of dissolving this but they are making the SNC lose efficiency. Because of Sihanouk's absence, they have refused to work. Now it is up to you to choose. But do not forget that the SNC's life is tied to the five major powers' document and the Paris conference. If you dissolve the SNC, you would be dissolving everything and the war will not end; fighting will continue. This is your problem.

The third choice. You submit a proposal stating clearly and properly that the tripartite government—or the other side's six members—would like to amend the Jakarta SNC by asking for the inclusion of Samdech Sihanouk and one more member from the Phnom Penh side; the formula would be seven plus seven. Afterward, Samdech Sihanouk would be chairman and Hun Sen vice chairman. You write it down clearly; otherwise, do not think that we would give it to you. No, no. Be clear about this.

Thus, they no longer have any illusions; but their vision is not yet fully clear. They still try to find a way not to accept that they are in the wrong. Now they can see clearly. There is still another issue, however. They still make this accusation. They said they agree to let Hun Sen be vice chairman and this is a concession to Phnom Penh. No, no. Phnom Penh does not accept this concession. Thus, it can be seen that if Hun Sen is not vice chairman, he will be chairman. Why did I say this? There should be cochairmen. Otherwise, Sihanouk will not be part of it. [Words indistinct] what should be done? Cochairmen [sahak prathean], rotational cochairmanship [sahak prathean phdo ven], or rotational chairmanship [prathean phdo ven]? This means that Hun Sen will not be vice chairman but chairman.

The price will go up like this because you are so greedy. I am selling something worth 100 to you for only 90; you still refuse. So, you went around the market and there was nothing left. Now this will be sold at 110 and not 100. You are so bad. And if you do not do things properly, even if Sihanouk comes into the SNC as a member; we would agree to this but we will include an extra member; seven plus seven. Will Hun Sen [words indistinct] to Sihanouk? If you do not behave, we will not even agree to have Sihanouk. Hun Sen and Sihanouk should both be chairmen. We have you really tied up. It is not our string, it is Sihanouk's. Now you try to untie it yourself.

As I have specified, if you sumbit a proper and resonable proposal, I would understand you. Earlier we were ready when we went to Jakarta. We were ready to let Samdech Sihanouk be chairman and have us be vice chairman. We were ready. But he did not come in. It was his problem, not ours. After a month passed, Son Sann, with his accented voice, came out over the Voice of America saying that Hun Sen is very bad and blaming Hun Sen [Hun Sen trying to impersonate Son Sann speech]. Son Sann cannot speak Khmer well; I cannot impersonate him because I am a pure Cambodian and different from Son Sann [laughter]. Unless you propose changes, we will not agree. The chains are around your legs. Why should I bother to help if you do not ask me to? The key is now in my hand. Your legs are chained and the key is in my hand, one key. You have chained yourself and threw the key to me. As I said [words indistinct]. If you are still this bad, no. This is the first issue to be specified to compatriots.

Samdech Sihanouk has now gone to France thinking that he will become chairman. No. No. Not yet. This is clear from us. The first point I wanted to make clear is that of the SNC chairman and vice chairman.

The second point is the role of the SNC. The other side is making an erroneous interpretation. The other night, the American radio and the (?BBC) did not report it correctly. They want this SNC to become a government. We would like to specify to the world, to Cambodian parties involved in the conflict, and all parties involved in the conflict, that the issue of dismantling the Cambodian Government and setting up a coalition government was a failure in 1989. Now do not have any illusion or any interpretation. Do not attempt to transform the SNC into a government. It should be specified to compatriots that the SNC is not a government; it is a symbolic body representing Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and unity in the transitional period. I would like to stress that the Phnom Penh government cannot be dismantled. Not even a single village head can be dismissed, let alone the government. The other side should be clear about this. If it ventures to raise the issue of dismantling the Phnom Penh government by letting the SNC be a government, then the Paris international conference has a 99.99 percent chance of failing again. We absolutely will not agree. We will not commit suicide to allow the return of the Pol Pot regime. I would like to stress this issue clearly to compatriots nationwide.

[Text] Why do we refuse to dissolve our government before elections? There are a number of reasons we have to specify. The first issue is that people should clearly realize who has the real possibility of preventing the Pol Pot regime's return. And who opposes Pol Pot? Sihanouk and Son Sann not only do not oppose Pol Pot, but also cooperate with him to oppose the Cambodian people. Thus, who really opposes Pol Pot? It is the Phnom Penh government. Who has the possiblity of opposing Pol Pot? It is the Phnom Penh government. Sihanouk and Son Sann do not even have [words indistinct] to control Pol Pot. Despite the fact that they are president and prime minister, Sihanouk and Son Sann have themselves recognized that they are president and prime minister only on paper. The truth is that the Khmer Rouge are in control of the coalition government. If Pol Pot does not agree, they dare not do anything.

This point clearly shows that if the ones opposing Pol Pot are dissolved or have their hands tied, the Pol Pot regime will return to kill and massacre the Cambodian people. This is the first major point we should understand. If this government is dissolved or if this government's hands are tied, Pol Pot will return—not Sihanouk and Son Sann. Also do not forget that Sihanouk stayed with Pol Pot from 1975 to 1979. When Pol Pot committed genocide, Sihanouk was with him and is still with him. This should be clearly understood. This is the first point and the first reason Phnom Penh cannot dissolve its government before elections.

The second point. Administering a society is not an ordinary thing. When the Pol Pot regime crumbled, how long did it take us to build our social infrastructure? We have been doing this for nearly 12 years and it is still not perfect, not good yet. And if you dissolve [words indistinct], how confused would it be? We should look at this too. Confusion will bring about the Pol Pot regime's return. In socioeconomic life, state authorities should be present at all times. There should be laws. If you dissolve these, there will be anarchy throughout the country. Goods' prices and our currency, the riel, would be worthless. This currency was promulgated by the Constitution, by our law. Pol Pot destroyed all the bank notes. What do we do next? Should we use paddy to barter for (?fish) and cloth for rice like in '79? How confused would it be? Even with our present state authorities, at times prices of gold and goods go up. [passage indistinct] What whould happen? We would die even because of robbery. Even with the police around, robbery still take places here and there. If there are no police, no army, no state authorities, what will we do? This is the second reason.

The third reason is the Cambodian people's right to self-determination. The Phnom Penh government was elected by the people in 1981. We have a National Assembly and a Constitution. We are not afraid of dissolving our government. The ones who have the right to do this, however, are the Cambodian people alone, and not Sihanouk, Son Sann, the Khmer Rouge, or Hun Sen. [Passage indistinct] sovereignty of a nation and a people. It is the right to self-determination of the people. This cannot be done.

It is true that you accused me that there were Vietnamese troops present during the elections in 1981. Compatriots and the clergy, some of you know this. How many times were elections held under Lon Nol with the presence of American and South Vietnamese troops? Why do they say the Lon Nol regime was legitimate? U.S. troops are in the Philippines, South Korea, Japan, and Western Europe. Elections there are legitimate whereas ours are unfortunately not considered legitimate. Just consider this. In our country, from 1970 to 1975, there were U.S. and Saigon [U.S.-backed south Vietnamese] troops. Elections were held many times and they were all said to be legal. In our case, even with the Vietnamese troop pullout, why is it not legal? No, we will not dissolve it yet. The ones who have the right to do this are the people who will vote. Thus, whether to dissolve or not dissolve is done only after the elections. This is for the information of the clergy and compatriots in Battambang Province and throughout the country. Please be clear about this issue. And if you aspire to destroy it at the Paris conference, I would say the Paris conference will certainly fail again.

The U.S. radio and the other side's radio, the Khmer Serei radio, to be straightforward, the radio of reactionary Cambodians, said it did not want to use the word dissolve because the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime is not legitimate. The other side should be informed that it should clearly realize that Phnom Penh is legitimate in every sense. It does not have state authorities on Thai territory. Its president is not in Beijing, France, nor Bangkok. The prime minister is in Phnom Penh and is right now in Battambang. Do not just guess. Our government and state authorities are in and not outside Cambodia. You should realize this. Legitimacy or illegitimacy does not rest on your saying so. It rests on the Cambodian people. The Cambodian people are staying with the Phnom Penh government. You should clearly realize this. We would like to proclaim that we would rather be isolated than die. If we dissolve, Pol Pot will be back, this is the most important point. Therefore, which one to choose?

You can level whatever accusations you want. Survival is the important thing for the people. Once we are dissolved and our hands tied, Pol Pot will return. Children, even babies, will be rounded up and killed. Are we willing to allow this? The Polpotists have not returned yet, but look at what happened to the people in Ratanamondol [district in Battambang Province]? How many have been killed, massacred in the trenches. Women were raped. And what happened to the people in Thmar Puok? This is what we should realize. They are not yet in power and they did this already. We built schools and bridges and they destroyed all these. Now we can see this. Waiting for Sihanouk and Son Sann is like waiting for the bamboo stick because if Sihanouk comes, it will be Pol Pot and no one else; not Sihanouk. It is no different from the time when Sihanouk came back in 1975; it was Pol Pot who came. This is the point I would like to stress.

The role of the SNC is not that of a government. The current government will continue to exist until elections because of the reasons I have given. Today, France's AFP and another paper, perhaps American, carried reports on this. They can report what they want, even to Roland Dumas [French foreign minister]. We will not agree to what is decided in Paris. Cambodian affairs belong to the Cambodians. We have checked with the Paris conference cochairmen. The other day, I sent Foreign Minister Hor Namhong to meet with Alatas in Hanoi to stress that the Phnom Penh government will not be dissolved. An erroneous interpretation was made, however. If you talk about dissolution, that is an old story; therefore, what is the use of convening the Paris conference?

We hold that the key to the political solution is not power-sharing before elections and the dismantling of the Phnom Penh government; it is free elections in Cambodia. This would be the implementation of the Cambodian people's right to self-determination. Thus, the efforts of the international community, including the UN role, should focus on organizing free elections in Cambodia. This is a point I would like to stress. Only elections can solve the problem. The election results will determine political and military issues in Cambodia.

Concerning the interpretation that the SNC will become a provisional government in Cambodia, people have said that the United Nations will set up a provisional government in Cambodia and administer Cambodia. I would like to state and inform compatriots and thank compatriots in Battambang Province, as well as compatriots throughout the country, for having sent hundreds and hundreds of thousands of petitions to the party, government, the front, and the National Assembly, voicing support for the Cambodian Government's stance. In those petitions, a clear opposition was expressed to the dissolution of the Phnom Penh government and to any measures or solutions that do not address the issue of preventing the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and the issue of Cambodia's sovereignty. I am now acting in accordance with the basic demands in those hundreds of thousands petitions.

Cambodia is an independent and sovereign state. Cambodia is not subordinate to any country. The UN Charter does not allow the United Nations to administer any country, including colonial territories. In Namibia, a country under the control and occupation of Namibia, [Hun Sen corrects himself] no, of South Africa. Despite this, the United Nations has not set up a provisional government in Namibia. The United Nations went in to supervise and assist in elections. The South African Administration and police in Namibia are still maintained.

Thus, there is nothing in the UN Charter allowing the establishment of an administration to run an independent and sovereign country. We would like to stress that we, the Cambodian people, are not stupid enough to surrender our sovereignty to others. We want to stress this. This does not apply to the Cambodian people only. If the United Nations sets up an administration to control a country, other countries the world over would be worried, including large countries.

The role of UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in organizing and supervising elections is already a big one. There is no country in the world in which the United Nations has organized elections. In Cambodia, we agree to let the United Nations organize and supervise elections. This is a lot and too much already. But this should be done on the premise that this was allowed by the SNC because the latter is the symbol of Cambodia's independence and sovereignty.

Thus our principled stand is this: We absolutely do not accept a UN provisional administration to control Cambodia. Our government will continue to administer the territory and we will hand over to the United Nations only the task of supervising the implementation of the international agreements on Cambodia and organizing elections in accordance with what the SNC has granted to UNTAC. This is the point I would like to clearly stress.

Some people talk about the dispatch of a UN peacekeeping force, along with artillery pieces, tanks, aircraft, and warships to Cambodia. We would like to stress that we agree to accept military personnel but categorically object to the dispatch of foreign combat units to Cambodia. This is our clear position. We will certainly not accept this. We accept unarmed military personnel. If necessary, we will allow them light weapons, such as pistols, for self-defense in their operations, while artillery pieces, tanks, war planes, and warships will not be brought to Cambodia. In other words, there will be no combat units in Cambodia. This is what I would like to stress to the clergy and compatriots nationwide. We will absolutely not agree because this is our sovereignty.

At JIM II, the Jakarta Informal Meeting II, I asked the ASEAN foreign ministers whether the international force would come to Cambodia to fight or to supervise. They replied that the force would come to supervise. Thus, this is very clear. These are not combat units of the peacekeeping force. These are military staff to coordinate a cease-fire.

Another point I would like to stress is a military issue in which troops would be assembled and disarmed. I would like to stress that we cannot accept this point. A political solution should take into account two factors. The first is to reach a cease-fire and create a neutral atmosphere for holding elections. The second is to prevent the Pol Pot group during the assembling and disarming of troops to launch attacks and seize power militarily. These are the two basic factors in a military solution. Thus, what do we do to reach a cease-fire? We agree to a cease-fire on the spot and afterward to assembling troops as small units and separating them to prevent them from reaching one another with artillery fire. And if necessary, UNTAC personnel can serve as a buffer zone. For example, the enemies are now in Pailin and we are at Treng [Battambang Province]. UNTAC can be a buffer in Pang Rolim. We can do this. This is the limit of our agreement. We will not agree to disarming troops and keeping weapons in warehouses, but we will agree to disarming troops and leaving weapons at military positions and not taking them out after a cease- fire. On this we agree. But to keeping weapons in warehouses, we will not agree. The main thing is that we do not trust Pol Pot.

To reach a cease-fire, however, we agree to keep weapons at positions and not to remove them from there. After this, we would report to the United Nations about the positions and their numbers and the number of troops and weapons at each position. We agree to report this. A definitive solution on troops should be left to the legitimate government to decide. The election result thus decides both administrative and military issues or, in other words, Cambodia's political and military matters. This is in order to meet the factor for a cease-fire to create a favorable atmosphere for elections. On the other hand, the second factor is to prevent at all costs the polpotists from taking advantage of our troops assembling in order to seize power through military means. In order to realize the second requirement we must first implement the first requirement. It is easy for Phnom Penh government troops to be inspected, controlled, and garrisoned; however, can we trust that the forces of Pol Pot, Sihanouk, and Son Sann be handled in the same way? Can we be sure where these forces are, where their weapons are hidden? We cannot trust. No one can effectively assemble the forces of Pol Pot, Sihanouk, and Son Sann, who are hiding in the jungles, and collect their hidden arms. We can assemble only the forces and arms of the Phnom Penh government. Therefore, we cannot have trust in this matter.

It is very easy to assemble the Phnom Penh government troops and put them in garrisons. But can one trust the troops of Pol Pot, Sihanouk, and Son Sann? We cannot trust them. One cannot assemble the troops of Pol Pot, Sihanouk, and Son Sann in the jungles and the weapons they have hidden. Only government troops can be assembled. Thus there is no trust. And therefore, the creation of an atmosphere for holding elections and the prevention of Pol Pot's return are inseparable.

If we decide to assemble troops and disarm them, then Pol Pot would take advantage of this decision. He would not need many men, say only 50-60 men, in order to attack and capture a district or a province because we would all be disarmed. If we did not assemble troops, collect weapons, and put them in garrisons, if we continued to allow the troops to remain armed and go out of the garrisons, fighting would resume. Therefore, on this point we must keep everything under control. The police force cannot be assembled. No country has ever done this. I would like to stress that on this issue, this is our position. What then is the other side's position? They charged that we want to keep power. I answered that they were correct. It is because we have the power that we must keep it. And if we keep it, it is because we want to prevent the return of Pol Pot. We have the power, we must keep it. We keep it in order to prevent the return of the Pol Pot regime. This is a better reason than the other side, which does not have power but shamelessly hungers for it and is trying to grab it, to seize power that would bring along the polpotists.

Therefore, you can see that our positions are different. You charge us with wanting to keep power. You are correct. We really want to keep power. But this is better than your position of hungering for power, of struggling to get the power. I am better than you. You want my power, you are attacking me to get this power while I am keeping the power. This is one difference. The second difference is that the power I am protecting and preserving is a power necessary to oppose Pol Pot whereas the power you are craving is one that would bring back Pol Pot. See, Son Sann and Samdech Euv [Sihanouk], do you see the difference? You should have a clear grasp of this question. Do not make arbitrary accusations against Phnom Penh. It is time for you to realize what is the truth. Do not stay in a cloud all the time. Some people lose all sense of reality when they are pampered too much.

In sum, it is difficult for me to say when the war will end. There is a meeting of the five major countries in Paris, along with Indonesia, making up a sixth country. Son Sann and Sihanouk met yesterday. It is not known what they talked about. Now people are searching for ways to reconvene the Paris conference. We cannot yet say whether this can be done, and if it can be reconvened, whether it can solve the problem. We cannot yet say. We do want this but others are too greedy. This violates our sovereignty and the people's right to self-determination in order to bring back the genocidal Pol Pot regime. We cannnot accept this.

In such a situation, it cannot be determined how far negotiations will proceed. Until there is a political solution, I appeal to compatriots and the armed forces to heighten vigilance and thwart the enemy's military adventures. The big five document, this year's UN General Assembly resolution, as well as the Jakarta document all call for military restraint. While we are being told to have military restraint, however, the other side announces that they are going to attack Siem Reap and Kompong Thom. The day before yesterday, they announced that they were going to attack Kompong Thom and they urged the people to flee Kompong Thom town. While they are talking of attacks, we talk of being patient, of observing a cease-fire. While we call for an end to foreign aid, they announce that they will continue to get aid. Now we must admit that the polpotists have tanks and artillery pieces.

It is true that yesterday we received news saying that China has stopped military aid to Pol Pot. I would like to stress, however, that we cannot believe this, (?for) Thailand continues to be a transit area for arms and a considerable amount of Pol Pot's arms has arrived there. Therefore, we cannot believe that. In the past, they announced that if Vietnam pulled out they would stop giving aid. But in reality, they have supplied even more aid than before the Vietnamese pullout. We thus cannot believe them. For this reason, we must be ready to fight to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and to save our own lives. If we do not fight, we will die. For example, in Battambang Province, since the Vietnamese troop pullout, if we did not fight, and if Pol Pot came in October, November, December, or a few months ago, would Battambang enjoy the kind of clothing people are now wearing? Would it have such a market? And would it have the opportunity to celebrate such festivities? This is a matter worth considering. All countries have military service obligations for their youth. We, therefore, must now implement military service duty.

The U.S. President yesterday went to the Persian Gulf to visit troops. The length of military service is 18 months—I do not know how many months. U.S. law has extended the length of military service. If it was 18 months, it has now been extended to 36 months. For us, as a country at war, we have to fulfill our obligation for the three-year military service, because if we do not do it, who will? When Vietnamese troops came, they were used as a pretext. So we repatriated them. If we do not do it, who would do it on the Cambodian people's behalf? Only us. No one can do it for the Cambodians. The Cambodians must do it. I thus appeal to the people throughout the country to join hands in building a strong people's national defense apparatus to prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

At the same time, we must strive to accelerate production efforts to raise the living standards of the people. Rice fields and farms have already been distributed to our compatriots who now enjoy the right of inheritance. Our people now have the right to own land officially and to hand it down to their children. We have authorized the privatization and lease of land in accordance with the customs we have observed since time immemorial. In connection with this privatization or lease of land, however, I would like to make the following appeal to all compatriots: The families of fallen soldiers, disabled soldiers, and families of active combatants in the army and police will surely be short of manpower. All of you should therefore provide assistance for the families of fallen soldiers, war invalids, and combatants engaged in combat on the battlefield. You should help them, for this will help ease the minds of frontline combatants.

I also appeal to compatriots to cooperate with the government to eliminate negative phenomena and corruption in our society. It is true that corruption in our regime has not reached the level it reached under the regimes of Sihanouk and Lon Nol. Then, high-ranking officials kept money in foreign banks. We have not reached that level yet. Still, we should not allow this to continue. The extortion of money from cars at roadblocks, or any other violations of law by authorities and the armed forces, be they soldiers, policemen, or militiamen, should end. Corrupt officials and those who violate the rights of the people should be drastically disciplined. For this reason, the people and compatriots are asked to help flush out these negative persons so that we can implement the control of society by law, placing the law above the ranks and higher than power-wielding individuals. We must eradicate all these negative acts because they are not beneficial. We must conduct social purification. And the compatriots should have an understanding for the government for some possible shortcomings in economic and administrative management as a number of persons have violated the rights of the people and affected their interests. The government is taking active measures by firing a number of high-ranking and mid-level officials, already sending a few of them to court for legal action. We have done this firmly. But time is short. Therefore, it is necessary to continue doing it by using the mass movement as the principal basis for the campaign to combat corrupt deeds and negative actions in our national society so that we may become freer and happier and our administrative and social management may be more sincere and successful. Therefore, the authorities at all levels and the people should participate in building our authorities and cadres, turning them into a power that really serves the people.

I wish all Buddhist monks and compatriots the best of health and success. Thank you. [applause]

Four 'Corrupt' Officials in Kompong Cham Removed

BK2811045190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] In implementing the State of Cambodia's party-state communique on the campaign against corruption, stagnant phenomena, and wastefulness, the Party Control Commission of Kompong Cham Province, with the cooperation and assistance of local people, has investigated and found more and more corrupt persons.

As a matter of fact, after discovering and punishing three persons, the provincial Party Control Commission discovered four more and will punish them as follows:

1. (Jit Yuhat), secretary of the party chapter in Dei Dos School and deputy chief of the provincial city's Education Bureau, on charges of taking bribes for the examination of junior high school certificate and the enrollment of students to the ninth class in Kroch Chhma District's education center. He is removed from the party membership, expelled from the post of deputy chief of the provincial city's Education Bureau and the state administration. He is temporarily detained and will have to repay 874,000 riels.

2. (Hem Cheat), chief of the provincial agricultural service's supply warehouse, on charges of embezzlement of chemical fertilizer in his trading with districts and buyers, and thus causing uncertainty among concerned sectors. He is removed from party membership and the post of chief of the provincial agricultural service's supply warehouse, expelled from the state administration, and will have to repay the embezzled money amounting to 338,660 riels.

3. (Hong Tei), vice chairman of the Provincial People's Committee, on the abuse of power by extorting money from those engaging in the overland and waterway transportation business and for colluding with dishonest traders violating state principles. He is removed from the party membership and expelled from the post of vice chairman of the Provincial People's Committee and is now an ordinary citizen. He is also temporarily detained and has to pay damages to the state.

4. (Nu An), deputy chief of the education service in Chamka Leu District, on charges of violating provincial

educational service principles by accepting bribes from candidates for the post of educational personnel in charge of new students. He is removed from the party membership and the post of deputy chief of Chamka Leu District's educational service and expelled from the state administration to become an ordinary citizen.

Khieu Samphan Agrees To Attend Paris Meeting

BK2811005290 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] On 25 November Samdech Norodom Sihanouk sent a message to His Excellency Khieu Samphan inviting him to attend a meeting of the four Cambodian party leaders in Paris soon.

On 26 November His Excellency Khieu Samphan sent a reply message to the samdech agreeing to his invitation. Following is the text of His Excellency Khieu Samphan's message:

To Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia and leader of the Cambodian national resistance forces, through His Excellency Ok Sakun, Paris.

Respected Samdech: I have received your message dated 25 November. I would like to inform you that I fully agree with the essence of the samdech's message, particularly the samdech's high appreciation of the noble efforts of the delegation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC], the Indonesian delegation, and the UN secretary general aimed at helping our Cambodia regain peace and independence.

I am happy and honored to have received the samdech's invitation to go to Paris quickly in order to take part with the Samdech, His Excellency Son Sann, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and the Phnom Penh side to examine the unresolved issues. I will confirm the date I arrive in Paris to the samdech.

Please accept my profound and most revered greetings.

[Dated] 26 November 1990.

[Signed] Khieu Samphan.

Supports UNSC Proposal

BK2811004090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 27 Nov 90

["Statement by His Excellency Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, supporting the 26 November 1990 statement of the cochairmen of the Paris Conference and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council;" dated 27 November—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] is happy to support and assist the 26 November 1990 statement of the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] on solving the Cambodian problem comprehensively and politically on the basis of the framework document of the five permanent members dated 28 August 1990, and officially adopted by the entire UNSC in its resolution No 68/1990.

2. The PDK would like to sincerely thank the cochairmen of the Paris conference, the five permanent members, the United Nations, the ASEAN countries, the special committee of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and the entire international community for their successive efforts over the past 12 years to solve and end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia politically, comprehensively, quickly, and definitively so that Cambodia regains independence and peace, and so that the Cambodian people are able to decide their destiny themselves.

3. The PDK, like the entire Cambodian National Resistance Forces [CNRF] under the leadership of the Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia and leader of the CNRF, is happy to take part in consultations and discussions with all Cambodian parties and the cochairmen of the PICC to most quickly advance a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem.

[Dated] 27 November 1990

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the PDK

SRV Troops Said Routed on Pailin Battlefield

BK2811025890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] On 25 November, 1,200 genuine Vietnamese soldiers from the 330th, 309th, and 4th Divisions left Snoeng and Boeng Ampil in an attempt to launch attacks on the east of Phnum Buon Chuo, Phnum Sar, and Baribo on the Route 10-Pailin battlefield [Battambang Province].

Our national resistance forces killed 50 of these Vietnamese enemy soldiers, with 12 bodies left on the battlefield, and wounded 20 others. Two wounded soldiers were taken prisoner.

True Nature of Phnom Penh Regime Recalled

BK2811074790 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Station commentary: "It is Necessary to Remember the True Nature of the Vietnamese Puppet Regime in Phnom Penh"]

[Text] On 23 November, while the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC], and representative of the UN secretary general met in Paris to elaborate the five-chapter document of the five UNSC permanent members, the aggressor Hanoi authorities ordered their Phnom Penh puppets to broadcast an article opposing the UN Transitional Authority [UNTAC]'s control over Cambodia and the elections in Cambodia.

They said: Experiences from the elections in various other areas across the world clearly attest that there is no need for the United Nations to control Cambodia and organize an election in Cambodia. The United Nations may observe or supervise the election under their regime as what had been done in Latin America, Africa, and Europe.

This is a vain attempt of the Vietnamese and their puppets to prevent the five UNSC permanent members and the PICC cochairmen from elaborating the five-chapter document for a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Even from the above argument, however, the Vietnamese enemies and their puppet-lackeys cannot hinder the process to settle the Cambodian problem in line with the five-chapter framework document of the UNSC permanent members. This is because the entire world community is well aware of the situation in Cambodia. They know that the current Vietnamese puppet regime has been born out of barrel of the gun of the over 250.000 Vietnamese troops after these aggressor troops invaded and took over Phnom Penh.

At its onset, this puppet regime did not have a single soldier or a civilian official of its own, except for a handful of traitorous puppets who were dragged by the barrel of the Vietnamese tank gun from Vietnam to Phnom Penh.

This so-called Hun Sen-Heng Samrin regime has been directly controlled by Vietnam through its over 250,000 troops and over 50,000 Vietnamese administrators from 1979 to date. As for some of the puppet soldiers and administrators who have been forced to serve the Vietnamese, they have all been controlled and supervised by the Vietnamese.

For example, nearly 40,000 Vietnamese officers and men have been deployed in all puppet army units, from divisional, regimental, battalion, company, and platoon to group levels for serving as the core of the puppet army. In addition, there are many other divisions of pure Vietnamese soldiers, such as the 4th, 339th, 330th, 309th, and 307th Divisions, which have been hidden in various jungles for resisting the Cambodian resistance forces and assisting the puppet regime in Phnom Penh.

In the puppet administration, there are tens of thousands of Vietnamese administrators supervising and controlling all sectors, from ministries and departments in Phnom Penh to communes and villages. This excludes the over one million Vietnamese immigrants that the Hanoi authorities have been sending to Cambodia since 1979.

Therefore, the puppet regime in Phnom Penh is a thoroughly Vietnamese aggressive regime that cannot be compared with the regimes in European, African, and Latin American countries. Holding an election under this regime means that the Vietnamese will be the ones organizing and managing the election in which the Cambodian people will be forced to vote for the Vietnamese puppets as the Vietnamese had done in Cambodia in the past. This will enable Vietnam to continue controlling Cambodia according to its Indochinese Federation strategy. If Vietnam arranges the election to be held under a UN or international supervision, nothing can be verified. This is because Vietnamese administrators who have been in Cambodia for the past over 11 years have disguised themselves as Cambodians.

This is why the international community, particularly the five UNSC permanent members, agreed that to successfully end the 12-year Vietnamese war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia, it is necessary to dissolve the Vietnamese-installed regime in Phnom Penh and send the UN Peacekeeping Force and the UNTAC to Cambodia to supervise the total withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia and organize a free, correct, and fair election in Cambodia.

This is the most correct and fair measure for solving the Cambodian problem through comprehensive political means for the sake of peace, security, and stability in Cambodia and to ensure stability and progress in the whole of Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Laos

Document on Events in Laos, Part 1

BK2711123590 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 27 Nov 90

[KPL headline: "Document in Anticipation of the 15th Anniversary of the Lao PDR"]

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 27 (KPL)—15 years ago, a historically significant event took place in Laos: The Lao people across the country under the leadership of the party successfully staged uprisings, thereupon they proclaimed the Lao People's Democratic Republic, broke of the imperialist and feudalist yoke, fulfilled the cause of the national liberation which opened up a new era of national independence, freedom and prosperity.

Throughout 15 years of the new revolutionary phase, a period of democracy perfection, the Lao people have experienced new tests and trials with difficulties. The construction of the new regime in Laos is something brand-new having no precedent model, on the one hand, and the national development has started from a state of subsistence of economy, on the other.

Compared to other developing countries, Laos is very far behind having almost no material-technical infrastructure. Moreover, it was a country suffered from a lengthy war and still is not free from hostile force and bad elements which have unceasingly launched sabotage activities. These forces and hostile elements have tried to drive a wedge in the state of unity among the multiethnic Lao people, on the one hand, and among the Lao and foreign friends, on the other, with a hope to weaken the country.

Despite the difficulties, the Lao people have managed to score achievements in the defence and construction of their new regime in many spheres. This has been made possible thanks to the correct, creative and clear-sighted policy adopted by the party and thanks to the sense of patriotism, unity and work application on the part of the multiethnic Lao people of all strata and of the armed and security forces. In addition, it is due to the substantial support by fraternal, friendly countries, for instance Vietnam, Cambodia and the Soviet Union. The indication of the achievement in each field is as follows:

1. Politics:

After the implementation of the Resolution-52 of the Political Bureau of the party's Central Committee which turned the attention to the development of grass roots, democracy and self-master right of the people, thus the situation in different localities across the country has seen notable changes: The multiethnic Lao people live in harmony and strive for the improvement of the standard of living. They have exercised their franchise rights electing their deputies to the people's assemblies, the administrative bodies and the mass organizations and contributed to the reinforcement of the security and development.

Public servants and party members have been trained to have a high sense of readiness to serve the masses thus contributing to strengthen the relationship between the party and the government, on one hand, and the people, on the other.

The state of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] promulgated a series of new laws and submitted to the people for discussion the draft of the constitution. The enforced laws and the draft of the constitution guarantee all citizens whatsoever ethnic group or social strata they may belong, including foreign residents in the territory of the Lao PDR, the right for justice and democracy. The state also enforced the foreign investment law in the Lao PDR which has contributed to increasing volume of foreign investment in Laos.

This represents a great contribution to the national development and the improvement of the people's living conditions.

The correct foreign policy designed by the party and state has created favorable conditions to the national defence and construction and contributed to the strengthening of the prestige and reputation of Laos in the international scene. Focus has been given to the consolidation of friendship, special solidarity and all-round cooperation among Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia. These relations have been reinforced qualitively and in all respects. These special relations guarantee each country and all the three—Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia—to survive and thrive. It also represents a positive factor ensuring peace and stability in Southeast Asia and in the world.

The relations of friendship and all-round cooperation between Laos and the Soviet Union have also been improved toward higher efficiency and mutual benefits.

The ties of friendship between the Lao party, government and the Chinese Communist Party and government have returned to normalcy. The long tradition of friendship between the Lao and Chinese people has been renewed and consolidated.

The top-ranking governmental delegation of Laos has visited Japan and France. The visits made the two countries better understand the social and economic situation of Laos and especially its open policy. It also contributed to drawing more sympathy and assistance from those two countries.

Beside, Laos has received relatively considerable foreign aid and loans. By 1989, over 100 firms from several countries applied for investment in Laos. Out of those applications, more than 80 projects worth over U.S. dollars 70 million have been granted. (to be continued).

Additional Airfield Planned for Luang Prabang

BK2511011890 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Nov 90 p A4

[By Atthawibun Sisuworanana]

[Text] Luang Prabang— This ancient capital of Laos is to embark on an ambitious plan to develop its tourism industry by building an additional airfield and improving land communications in the province, a Laotian senior official said here yesterday.

The plan, estimated to cost 600-700 millon kips, or about Bt [baht] 25-30 million, includes building the airfield at Sala Phoukhoun, reconstructing the 60-km Luang Prabang-Sala Phoukhoun Road and opening a new network of roads linking the ancient capital with its surrounding highland. Vongphet Saikeu-Yachongtoua, the governor of Luang Prabang, said the establishment of a communications network would increase the accessibility of the city to the outside world, improving the local tourism business.

Currently, a 40-seat plane belonging to Lao Aviation, flying daily from Vientiane to Luang Prabang, provides the only access for tourists to the ancient capital, which is famous for its beautiful landscape and tradition.

Vongphet said the increase in the number of foreign tourists in recent years helped to expand the tourism business in the city. Luang Prabang now has two international-standard hotels with a combined total of about 100 rooms.

The airfield at Sala Phoukhoun is the key to promote the provinces tourist attractions, the governor said, saying that tourists would be flown from Vientiane to Sala Phou-Khoun and can take in one of the beautiful panoramic highland views there before travelling by land to experience the ancient traditions of Laos in Luang Prabang.

Sala Phoukhoun, the scene of one of the fiercest battles during the final phase of the war of national liberation between 1973-1975, has the potential to be developed into a highland resort, said Vongphet. The district is about 60 kms south of Luang Prabang. The governor said there is a possibility that another route to Luang Prabang may be opened to Thailand's Chiang Khong district of Chiang Rai Province.

The two destinations are now linked by the Mekong River separated by 250 kms. About 170 river-boats are now operating regular freight services between the two towns. Vongphet said tourism by the Chiang Rai-Luang Prabang route was very promising, but added that it was up to Vientiane to decide whether to open this route with Thailand.

Thailand and Loas just last week agreed to open two additional air routes between Vientiane-Khon Kaen and Vientiane-Chiang Mai, in addition to the Vientiane-Bangkok link. But opening up other air routes in Laos other than Vientiane is still impossible because of the lack of safety equipment and measures at Laotian airfields. Under the plan to develop Luang Prabang's tourism industry, Vongphet said communications routes must be opened between the provincial capital and its vicinity in order to bring in food supplies for visitors.

Luang Prabang is now receiving assistance from the United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization and Canadian International Development Aid and the European Community in developing its communications and agriculture. Vongphet said Luang Prabang is now inviting more foreign investors to help develop its tourism industry. The Bt30 million budget to develop the province's tourism will be presented to the central government next month, he added.

Top Leaders Visit Trade Fair in Vientiane

BK2611160690 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 26 (KPL)—Top Lao leaders separately visited the That Louang Fair-1990 open here between November 15- December 6, 1990.

Among the top leaders were Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit who visited the fair on November 21, President Souphanouvong on November 24, and the chairman of the Council of Ministers, on November 25.

Apart from stands of various ministries [and] state-run and private firms, the fair is also being participated by France, Japan, China, Thailand and Vietnam.

Somlat Chanthamat Attends Art Display Opening

BK2711111190 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Vientiane, Nov 27 (KPL)—In anticipation of the 15th anniversary of the formation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a nation-wide fine arts exhibition opened here yesterday afternoon at the cultural club of the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Taking part in the opening ceremony were Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, head of the Propaganda and Training Board, and deputy head of the Preparatory Committee for the Four Grand Events in 1990; ministers; PSA [People's Supreme Assembly] members; diplomatic corps and senior Lao officials.

On display at the exhibition are paintings, carving, moulding and casting items.

The exhibition is open to the public from November 26-December 1,1990.

Philippines

Ramos Brushes Aside December Coup Rumors

HK2811052790 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos brushed aside rumors that there will be a coup in December. He said the reports are baseless and there is no cause for the people to be alarmed. Secretary Ramos added that if the rebel soldiers do stage an uprising, the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] is prepared to defend the current administration. He appealed to the right wing elements to lay down their arms and help the government alleviate the country's poverty. Ramos issued the statement four days before the anniversary of the 1 December coup attempt led by the RAM-SFP [Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldier of the Filipino People]. He warned that the AFP is ready to prevent a coup in case rebel soldiers launch one on the day of the anniversary. Ramos said the people will not support a coup and he called on all the peace and order councils nationwide to help gather all information regarding another destabilization plan by rightist elements.

Secretary Confident Congress Will Approve Taxes

HK2811041390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] The government is expected to make a commitment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to impose new taxes this year in exchange for new loans. Its negotiations, now on its third week, with a visiting IMF mission are expected to close before this weekend on that commitment.

Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao told newsmen yesterday the IMF wanted a further reduction of P13 billion in the deficit projected for the end of 1991.

This is on top of the P55-billion cut in the combined budget shortfall of the national government, the Central Bank, government financial institutions and government-owned or -controlled corporations.

Of the P13 billion, P8 billion will come from an affluent-consumption tax, windfall profit taxes and adjustments in tariff rates, including those on imported crude oil.

"While there are no differences in policy orientation between the government and the IMF, there are significant differences in what the Fund reads and what we read," Estanislao said. "There is a P13-billion difference in the adjustment measures on the fiscal side. They want a firm determination to raise revenues."

The IMF representatives had met with legislators headed by Senate President Jovito Salonga and House Speaker Ramon Mitra presumably to explain their conditions, and Estanislao expressed confidence that the new taxes would be passed by Congress before it takes a recess on Dec. 14.

Estanislao said that there would also be an "active search for means to expand revenues with the use of executive privileges." The first of these, he said, will be the 5% across the board levy on imports.

The IMF, he also said, understood the importance for the Philippine government to follow a certain "timing and sequencing" of the revenue measures. "We will have to follow a certain time path. We will have to do certain things, but the fact is that procedures dictate that this will take some time." For instance, while petroleum prices at the pumps need to be increased, public hearings must precede them, he said.

The IMF mission, headed by its head of Asian affairs, Ulrich Baumgartner, was expected to finalize in the next days the terms of references for a new Fund program for the Philippines.

The new economic stabilization program will replace the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program, which had been formally abandoned by the government following its failure to comply with performance targets.

The EFF program, which should have been in place for 1989-1991, had allocated $820 million in EFF funds and $400 million in compensatory and contingency financing facility. Both facilities had been cancelled.

Senate Asked To Investigate, Ban KMU Union

HK2811040390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 90 p 9

[By staff member Johanna Son, with Lito Zulueta and Manny Mogato]

[Text] The vice chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, yesterday formally asked the Senate to investigate and ban the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) [1 May Movement], saying it took part in a communist-led plot to "induce" another coup attempt during last month's Welgang Bayan.

"Testifying before the Senate defense committee, Biazon said that the plot—meant to unfold in the Oct. 24 violent strike—was detailed in "subversive" documents seized in several raids. [quotation marks as published]

Biazon and Brig. Gen. Guillermo Flores, head of the Philippine Constabulary Criminal Investigation Service (PC-CIS), labelled the KMU a "front" organization of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

The military sought a Senate inquiry into the KMU's "legal status," the "characteristics of its mass actions," and its registration documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Committee chairman Sen. Ernesto Maceda said the panel would look into the suggestion. But labor committee chairman Sen. Ernesto Herrera said: "How can you ban the KMU? It's only a movement."

Biazon said that exiled CPP founder Jose Maria Sison had said in an interview that the KMU, along with several other allied groups, were Communist fronts. But officials of KMU, which claims some 75,000 members, have denied the charge and challenged the military to produce the transcript of Sison's alleged statements.

He also alleged that it was the KMU that supposedly provided iron spikes used to puncture tires of vehicles during the general strike.

"Our point is this: (the KMU) is a front of an outlawed organization. Their acts in the past, many of them, are disturbing the peace, many of them are violent," Biazon said. "We need legal remedies to prevent these groups from creating chaos in this country," he added.

Flores reported that captured documents revealed that the Left had deployed 60 "self-defense units" during the welga, and that different tasks were farmed out to "front" organizations such as the KMU and League of Filipino Students.

Biazon said that based on seized Communist documents, the CPP, by fomenting violence during the strike, planned to force the government into taking "drastic steps against dissenters" and provoke the United States into supporting another coup attempt by rebel soldiers. He did not elaborate.

He and Capcom chief Brig. Gen. Marino Filart assured that the military and police were ready to cope with another welgang bayan or protests against a new oil price hike.

The military had claimed that the Communists and the right-wing military rebels have formed an alliance to "overthrow" the government.

The armed forces chief of staff, Gen. Renato de Villa, said that the spate of bombings in Metro Manila last September had been traced to communist urban hit squads using explosives supplied by rebel soldiers who, in turn, could have pilfered the bombs from the military logistics command.

But the military and defense establishments, led by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, are confident that members of the bomb squads will be captured soon with the help of military rebels who have gone to the government side.

Senator Maceda Seeks Aquino's Resignation

HK2411050390 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] Senator Ernesto Maceda has sought the resignation of President Corazon Aquino because the president, he said, has lost the support of the ruling coalition party members and the people. In a speech to the Eagle Society of Naga City, Maceda said that should the Liberal Party, Struggle of Philippine Democrats, and the Philippine Democratic Party be asked to render a vote of confidence, President Aquino will lose. According to Maceda, President Aquino should just step down like British Prime Minister Thatcher did—resign. For the listeners' information, Thatcher resigned on Thursday after she failed to win votes to retain the Conservative Party leadership. Maceda said the president should form a civilian council or allow Laurel to replace her. The council would be comprised of Senate President Jovito Salonga, House Speaker Ramon Mitra and Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan. They would be responsible for creating policies and programs which the Cabinet would enforce. Maceda's proposal is considered as his formal break from Aquino.

Columnist Views Clamor for 'Tough Chief'

HK2811020390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 27 Nov 90 p 1, 6

[From "Analysis" column by Amando Doronila: "Opinion Poll Shows Clamor for Tough Chief"]

[Text] The current popularity in the ABS-CBN Research public opinion poll of Mrs. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Sen. Joseph Estrada as possible presidential candidates seems to reveal a caricature of what the voters in Manila want their next President to be.

The results represent a reaction against what is perceived as a weak political center; it is a pendulum swing back to a strong type of leadership. It would seem that the voters are in search of a leader who is the opposite of President Aquino in terms of leadership style, in the same vein that when the people shifted en masse for Mrs. Aquino in 1986, they perceived in her the contrast of President Marcos, whose administration was characterized as corrupt and repressive.

In the formation of her political style and in making decisions, President Aquino went out of her way to project herself as the opposite of President Marcos. This projection has resulted in some decisions that have put her in a bind or deprived her of political flexibility.

A clue to the shifting winds of voter preference may be seen in the response to certain questions. The respondents were asked to mention some character traits and qualities that they wanted in a President. The most admired traits were strong leadership (49%), virtues (51.3%), social concern (24.7%) and talent/intelligence (17.3%).

Many were also looking for a President who is "makamasa, makatao, maka Pilipino" (16.7%). ["for the masses, for the people, for the Filipinos"] This trait is more admired among the upper and middle classes (18.1% of ABC) than among the lower classes (13.5% of DE). Further, the voters wanted a leader with personal conviction—"may sariling paninindigan" ["with his/her own principles"] (15%), has a mind of his own—"hindi kayang paikutin ng kahit sino" ["cannot be manipulated by just anybody"] (6%) and can control his men—"kayang kontrolin and tao niya" ["can control his men"] (5.3). Among the desired personal virtues, honesty (10.7%) topped the list.

Note that although the respondents sought strong leadership qualities, only 3.7% said they appreciated someone "kagaya ni Marcos." ["like Marcos"]

When the respondents were asked what they thought of Estrada as President, he had 55% favorable response. Twenty-six per cent said he had social concern, 17.3% said he had the desired virtues (mabait, maunawain; hindi corrupt, matapat; marunong tumupad ng pangako; mahusay). [kind, understanding; not corrupt, true, keeps his promises; good]

Strong leadership qualities appeared to be identified with Santiago and social concern with Estrada. The voters found in these two people an identification of their desirable leadership qualities.

Now, if any presidential aspirant, either already visible or still waiting in the shadows, could embody these desired qualities, then he or she could be a formidable candidate.

Difficult times sharpen people's search for leaders who can perform miracles and extraordinary feats. They seek messiahs in the tradition of peasant millenarianism. They intensify desires for easy and uncomplicated solutions. They reinforce the drive to escape reality. Santiago and Estrada have presented uncluttered approaches to the solution of complex problems—Santiago by her war on corruption, and Estrada by blaming the ills of the country exclusively on the prolonged American presence.

Santiago has, of course, responded, quite glibly, to interviews in which she has been asked to comment on a variety of national problems. However, like nearly all of the visible presidential aspirants, she has not presented a package of policy that will differentiate her from the other pretenders to the presidency.

High poll ratings do not necessarily transform into nomination. In the nomination process, the party system is crucial. Even though the party system has been dislocated by 14 years of the Marcos dictatorship, the party machine remains the vehicle through which candidacies and campaigns are organized.

Estrada enjoys the advantage of being a party member. Santiago has no party. She has antagonized politicians in Congress and party regulars with her insults; they are not likely to embrace her, although historically, parties adopted as "guests" candidates who were seen as winnable. Such was the case with Ramon Magsaysay when the old guard of the Nacionalista Party made way for him to be nominated as its presidential candidate because of his vast popularity.

Polls are only part of the dynamics of Philippine politics. They are indicators of the shifting national mood. The poll on Santiago and Estrada may be seen as such—as political weather vane. It suggests the volatility of the voters only five years after Edsa [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue]. While it would seem the Metro Manila voters had eschewed the Marcos strongman type of leadership, they also are beginning to reject the weak leadership with which President Aquino is associated in the public mind.

It would seem the voters are looking for a middle ground—a President who can offer strong and honest leadership within the ambience of democratic processes. If this were the case, then the voters would be indicating to us sound political judgments. They are drawing a profile of what the next president would be, and it is up to us to look for the person to fit this mold, and put pressure on the political process to accommodate such a person.

Secretary Defends Record After Resignation Call

HK2211124790 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig Jr. today responded to the accusation that he does not have the capability to hold office, especially in the energy field. In a press briefing at Malacanang, Macaraig said:

[Begin recording in English] As to his calling me lousy, incompetent, and a nonperforming asset, I am certain that my record in the government can compare favorably with Senator Paterno's performance or nonperformance. I am not the energy czar. While others might welcome such an impressive designation, I prefer to be referred to by my official title.

In the energy field, I am chairman of PNOC [Philippine National Oil Company], the Energy Coordinating Council [ECC], and the very recently created Energy Operations Board [EOB].

I competently discharged the duties of these positions. Clips of the meetings of these bodies are open for examinations. Incidentally, I do not receive any additional compensation of any kind from the ECC and the EOB. [end recording]

Meanwhile, on the call for the dismissal of Executive Secretary Macaraig as chairman of the EOB by the Senate, particularly Senator Vicente Paterno who accused Macaraig of incompetence, President Aquino said it is better for these people to present a detailed proposal to the government for the improvement of the country's energy situation.

Tribunal Proclaims New Tawi-Tawi Congressman

HK2811020590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 27 Nov 90 pp 1, 21

[By Rod L. Villa]

[Text] Retired Admiral Romulo N. Espaldon was declared winner yesterday in the 1987 congressional election for the lone district of Tawi-Tawi, unseating former representaive Alawadin T. Bandon Jr.

The House of Represenatives Electoral Tribunal, in a unanimous decision, annulled all the votes cast in nine "mythical" barangays and pronounced Espaldon winner by a plurality of 4,057 votes.

Bandon's ouster was the second in as many decisions handed down by the tribunal this year, the first being the case of former representative Jesus Dureza who was found to have lost by only eight votes to Rep. Prospero Nograles in Davao City.

Chairperson Ameurfina M. Herrera, one of three Supreme Court justices in the tribunal, ratified the decision which was concurred in [as published] by all nine members.

The other signatories were Associate Justices Isagani A. Cruz and Emilio A. Gancayco, Rep. Honorato Y. Aquino (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] Benguet), Rep. David Ponce de Leon (LDP, Palawan), Rep. Simeon E. Garcia Jr. (LDP, Nueva Ecija), Rep. Juanito G. Camasura Jr. (LDP, Davao del Sur), Rep. Jose E. Calingasan (LDP, ?Batangas), a Rep. Antonio Cerilles (NP, [Nationalist Party] Zamboanga del Sur).

"I am exceedingly glad that I won," said Espaldon, whose evenhandedness won wide acclaim in the southern islands as former minister of cultural minorities in the past regime. "I never doubted my victory, and the tribunal's ruling affirms the triumph of truth and the strength of the sanctity of the ballot."

"I look forward to returning to public service when I have served for nearly all of my adult life, starting as an ordinary soldier in the Armed Forces," Espaldon said.

He said arrangements were being made for his oathtaking and, barring any more obstacles, he was ready to join the House of Representatives as the new lawmaker for the island province.

The tribunal found, after over three years of hearings marked by bitter charges and countercharges, that the election in Tawi-Tawi was marked with "massive irregularities, affecting more than 50 per cent of the votes cast in Languyan."

Focus of Espaldon's electoral protest was Languyan, created by President Ferdinand Marcos in 1987, after the surrender of Jerry Matha, a leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Matha is now governor of Tawi-Tawi.

When created, the court found, the town had 11 registered barangays but in the 1987 polls, the number of barangays increased to 20.

The court said Bandon failed to prove the existence of the nine new barangays, and was unable to show proof of "the mandate for the creations of 11 precincts where 4,086 voters supposedly cast their ballots.

Speaker Pro Tempore Antonio V. Cuenco (LDP, Cebu City) said Bandon has 15 days within which to file a motion for reconsideration with the tribunal as the sole body before which he may appeal the case.

Military Draws Up Plan To Trim Down Troops

HK2811040990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 90 pp 1, 9

[By staff member Manny Mogato, with Lito Zulueta]

[Text] Senior army officials have drawn up a 12-year master plan to trim down their troops from 70,000 to a lean, compact and mobile force of 60,000.

The force reduction scheme also includes an ambitious P30-billion modernization and revitalization plan to prepare the army for a greater security role in the country.

Maj. Gen. Guillermo Flores, army chief, said the army's modernization program would be affected by two factors: first, the creation of a national police force next year, and second, the strategic defeat of the communist guerrillas in the next two years.

"Within the first half of this decade, the country shall have attained a significant degree of stability," he said. "internal threats, therefore, shall already be within the capability of the police forces to contend with. The army shall have the opportunity to reconfigure into a lean, compact, and mobile force."

This early, the army has started reducing its forces to generate much-needed funds to finance a modest force development and modernization program.

Also, armed forces chief Gen. Renato de Villa said the military would dissolve four more battalions in Luzon and Mindanao next year, and their troops reassigned to scattered areas, as an anti-coup measure.

De Villa added that the armed forces was implementing reforms to ensure that coup-prone soldiers would not influence others into joining a future military uprising.

Last week, the armed forces disbanded the 53rd army battalion in Mindanao, which was named by the Davide Commission as a coup prone unit. It also disbanded four combat battalions, involving 2,400 men, to weed out coup-prone units in the military.

Flores said he might also reduce the army's eight infantry divisions to just six, with nine combat battalions each.

The army's engineering units would be increased, however, from three to at least five construction brigades, with added units to be deployed in Mindanao and northern Luzon.

The reduction program would remove disloyal and "non-performing" officers and soldiers from the service.

The army would, however, maintain and improve its capabilities by developing a large reserve force and buying more military equipment. The latter would include air defense artillery, such as anti-aircraft guns and multi-launch rocket system (MLRF) missiles; medium-range field artillery, such as 155 mm howitzers; infantry assault and crewserved weapons, such as mortars and machineguns; trucks; armored vehicles, including light tanks; rotary aircraft, such as helicopters and reconnaissance planes; satellite communication systems and other field tactical radio sets.

About one-third of the $960-million modernization program would go to the purchase of vehicles such as helicopters and utility trucks.

A bigger part of the program was earmarked to buy equipment for a special engineering group, to be rapidly deployed in calamity areas.

Editorial Views Military's Changing Role

HK2811041190 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 28 Nov 90 p 4

["Editorial: "A changing picture of the military"]

[Text] The decision to disband four army combat battalions early next year brings forward a program of realigning the troubled, and sometimes uncomfortable, relationship between the civil government and the armed forces. It follows an order by the general headquarters to revamp the army in Mindanao, the scene of the latest military rebellion, and the earlier breakup of the elite Scout Rangers following the failed December 1989 coup.

In its entirety, the program calls for the trimming of the army from 70,000 to 60,000 men; (2) the shift or removal of units, especially in Mindanao, that had been involved in past coup attempts; and (3) adjusting the military to new roles of external defense in response to the arms buildup in Southeast Asia. Savings from the reduction of the size of the army would be used for weapons to modernize the military.

The first objective, the rooting out of the capacity of rebel soliders to launch coups, is short-term. It follows one of the more important recommendations of the Davide Commission report, which has identified the "coup-prone" units of the armed forces.

More important for the changing relationship between the civil authority and the military is that the armed forces are being modernized and prepared for the role of external defense, a role that has since independence been left to the security relationship with the United States. The shift means that the armed forces now recognize that, as the nation gains political stability and as the threat of communist insurgency recedes, they will be less tied to law-and-order functions.

The involvement of the military in the campaign to crush the communist insurgency has given it an important political role. The recession of the communist threat would permit the armed forces to modernize to give the country a credible defense capability. Given our archipelagic territory, it is only correct that emphasis is being made on the modernization and buildup of the navy.

The military modernization plans suggest that subtle changes are taking place in our perception of the military, in reducing its opportunities to meddle in civil politics. This change is certain to affect the balance of power between the civil authority and the military.

Ramos Rejects Truce in Typhoon-Hit Areas

HK2311032390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Nov 90 p 8

[By Manny Mogato, staff member]

[Text] Tacloban City—Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos rejected the idea of a ceasefire in typhoon-ravaged areas with New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas because there were no guarantees against truce violations.

During a speech at the Daniel Z. Romualdez Airport here, Ramos also announced the release of P [Philippine peso]7.1 million of the government calamity fund for the relief and rehabilitation of Eastern Visayas (Region VIII).

"There are no commitments from the rebels not to use violence," Ramos said, and stressed the need to protect government relief operations against rebel attacks. He cited the NPA ambush of local officials and soldiers bringing relief goods to earthquake-affected areas in Kalinga-Apayao.

Ramos, however, said that the government would assist rebels affected by the calamities if they would lay down their arms and come down from the hills.

During a briefing, Eastern Visayas officials said the typhoon killed 32 persons injured 148 and rendered three missing. It also affected 150,000 families, totally destroyed 25,422 houses and partly damaged 71,620 houses.

Total damage to the region's agriculture and agricultural facilities is estimated at P615.17 million.

Other developments:

The government may put up a pontoon bridge, or a temporary floating span, between Cebu and Mactan islands while the Mactan bridge is being repaired. The Cebu government has asked U.S. navy construction battalions to study the feasibility of the plan.

The Belgian government is giving P2.5 million for the relief and rehabilitation of Cebu, one of the areas worst hit by typhoon Ruping.

Belgium has three projects ongoing on the island, namely the improvement of Mactan Airport, modernization and extension of Cebu's biggest fish market, and installation of additional water facilities.

President Aquino yesterday placed under a state of calamity five more provinces devastated by typhoon Ruping. These are Marinduque in the Southern Tagalog region (Sub-region IV-B), Zamboanga del Norte in Western Mindanao (Region IX), Davao del Norte in Southern Mindanao (Region XI) and Lanao del Norte and Sur in Central Mindanao (Region XII). These, along with 26 other provinces and three subprovinces, are now exempted from the 10% cut in sales and deliveries of fuel products, and are subject to government price control on basic commodities.

The Philippine National Bank (PNB) will extend loans to typhoon-affected areas, particularly to sugar planters (P350-P400) and to projects on reconstruction and debt relief. The PNB reconstruction loan program allows a maximum loan of P10 million, payable within five years at 16% interest.

The Government Service Insurance System gives emergency loans to government workers victimized by Ruping. It allows a P5,000 maximum loan to holders of its permanent insurance policies.

Military Captures Rebels in Isabela, Negros

HK2411053990 Quezon City Radyo Ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] The military captured nine rebels in separate operations in Isabela and Negros Occidental provinces yesterday. Camp Crame reported that a joint force from the 118th PC [Philippine Constabulary] and Isabela PC-Integrated National Police arrested the nine rebels in sitio Kamkam, barangay San Rafael, Roxas, Isabela. Among the captured are Mario Baltazar, Eulogio Protareva alias Comrade Lim and Elpidio de la Cruz.

CPP-NPA Leader Surrenders in Eastern Visayas

HK2711061790 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 27 Nov 90 pp 1, 7

[By Fer Taboy, DIYARYO correspondent]

[Excerpts] A top Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] official surrendered to the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police [PC-INP] in Eastern Visayas.

PC-INP Chief Major General Cesar Nazareno yesterday said Igmedio Mengalio alias Comrade Minoy, Ramon, and Pandoy, the vice commander of the CPP-NPA's regional guerrilla unit of Eastern Visayas Regional Party Committee (EVRPC), surrendered. [passage omitted]

According to the PC-INP report, Mengalio is one of the most trusted officials in the CPP-NPA guerrilla unit operations in the region.

Mengalio is presently under the custody of General Vicente Garcia Jr, Regional Command 8 commander, and he is persuaded to cooperate with the PC-INP in crushing the insurgency in Eastern Visayas.

The military suspects that a division within the CPP-NPA ranks is growing and it expects more officials to return to the fold of the law due to lack of credibility and capability of the remaining party leaders.

Previously, Prudencio Calubid alias Comrade Ending, member of the CPP-NPA central party committee and deputy chief of the Mindanao Commission, assailed some of his comrades for extravagant spending while other comrades are suffering in the mountains.

The PC did not mention how many of Mengalio's men surrendered to the military.

Counterinsurgency Drive Said Gaining Headway

HK2811040790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 28 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] Gen. Renato S. de Villa, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), said yesterday that the government's counter-insurgency program is gaining headway in the countryside.

De Villa visited the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) at Camp Nakar, Lucena City in Quezon to assess the military's anti-insurgency operations in the region. He urged soldiers in the field to "reinforce" their efforts and keep up the pressure and momentum "as it is already very clear that the communist insurgency is about to be defeated."

De Villa was briefed by Brig. Gen. Federico Ruiz, Solcom chief; Brig. Gen. Evaristo Carino, Regional Command (Recom) 4 chief; and senior officers of the Army and Constabulary. He was informed by commanders that the counter-insurgency campaign, particularly the implementation of "Oplan Lambat, Bitag" was going on well.

Solcom officials said latest statistics on rebel-soldier engagements, casualty ratio, firearms gain, and number of barangays cleared by the AFP showed results favorable to the government.

They said the New People's Army (NPA) in Luzon have resorted to armed robberies and force to support themselves because people in far-flung barangays have become angry at the NPA force taxation.

De Villa cited Solcom officers and men for their success in the counter-insurgency campaign in Luzon.

Communist-Military Rebel Alliance Confirmed

HK2811095390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa confirmed the formation of a tactical alliance by the New People's Army and military rebels belonging to the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People. De Villa said the rebel soldiers were forced to forge an alliance with the communist rebels due to their desperate wish to grab political power in the country. De Villa based the formation of the alliance on the simultaneous attacks by the two groups on the military relay communication station in Enrile, Cagayan. The chief of staff expressed the belief that the alliance forged by the two rebel forces would not last long because they differ in ideology. Here is part of General Renato de Villa's statement:

[Begin De Villa recording in English—in progress] ...something that we can only surmise to be a product of desperation. [end recording]

Region 2 Commander Denies NPA-RAM Alliance

HK2811102190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 28 Nov 90

[By Bert Silva]

[Text] There is no truth to the report of an alliance between the New People's Army [NPA] rebels and the ultrarightist Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People [RAM-SFP]-Young

Officers Union in relation to the insurgency problem in Regional Command [Recom] 2, which includes Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, and Nueva Vizcaya. This according to Recom 2 commander Colonel Miguel Fontanilla:

[Begin recording] [Fontanilla] With the help of the Lord, the peace and order situation here in Region 2 is normal and under control, especially the NPA, ultrarightists, and criminal elements.

[Reporter] But it was reported that the other day there was an encounter in Marag Valley, somewhere in Cagayan, and that an alliance has been forged between the NPA and the ultrarightists. What can you say?

[Fontanilla] It is not true that the NPA and the ultrarightist RAM-SFP have joined forces. The truth is that we had an extensive operation in Marag Valley, which is in Luna, Kalinga-Apayao. That is no longer under my jurisdiction, but since Recom 2 is in operational control of the (5th) Infantry Division under Colonel Orlando Soriano, we were involved in this operation in Kalinga-Apayao. We overran the NPA camps in Marag Valley. These camps were used as production base and training camps, plus this is the headquarters of the Northern Luzon Commission, the highest organ of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA in Northern Luzon. [end recording]

Rebel Plans To Attack Government Offices Noted

HK2811144190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Three other government installations were among the rebels' targets for sabotage after they burned a major military relay station in Cagayan. Here are the details from Radio Veritas 7:

[Begin recording] Military personnel in Cagayan foiled a plan by communist rebels to bomb the National Irrigation Administration office, Department of Public Works and Highways, and DomSat [Domestic Satellite], all located in the same province. The rebels attacked and burned the Roma relay station recently.

According to a report received by PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] Major General Cesar Nazareno, military intelligence discovered that the rebels' plan included the attack on the three establishments mentioned. However, the rebels failed to carry out their plan when the military deployed troops to secure the three installations.

In relation to the raid on the Roma relay station, the military recovered 13 sticks of dynamite planted by the rebels there. These were immediately defused by the military and were turned over to the Cagayan Constabulary and INP. [end recording]

New Investments Reach 89 Billion Pesos Jan-Oct

HK2811040590 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 28 Nov 90 P B1

[Text] Total investment in projects registered by the Board of Investments (BOI) in the first 10 months of the year reached P89 billion, surpassing the entire 1989 investments level of P70.8 billion.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Tomas I. Alcantara said that the BOI expects a 34 percent increase in the value of projects registered by the end of 1990—to P95 billion despite the setbacks the economy has suffered since the 1989 December coup attempt.

Alcantara noted that P21.8 billion of the total investments during the ten-month period was poured in by foreign investors.

These included Japan, which infused P7 billion in equity investments in various projects; Hong Kong, P5 billion; Taiwan, P3.3 billion; and the United States, P1.3 billion.

Last year, Japan topped the list of major foreign investors into the country with P3.4 billion. This was followed by Taiwan, with P3.2 billion; Hong Kong, P2.9 billion; and U.S., P2.85 billion.

Over the past year and ten months, the sectors that got the bulk of these investments included textile, tourism, electronics, mining, chemical and energy sectors. The industrial estate projects, on the other hand, also received P17 billion in investments during the period.

The amount forced part of the P200 billion worth of projects registered by the BOI since 1986, a separate report presented by Trade and Industry Secretary Jose S. Concepcion, Jr. showed.

At a recent briefing for members of the House of Representatives' Committee on Trade and Industry, Secretary Concepcion said the P200 billion record for 1986 up to the first 10 months of 1990 far exceeded the P30 billion investments generated over the previous five-year period (1981-1985) before Aquino.

Concepion recalled that "early in 1986, at a time when cynics were about to write off the Philippine economy and any normal businessman would have given up, it was the DTI [Department of Trade and Industry] and BOI that actively pursued the possibility of a new era of record-breaking investment levels."

Thailand

Two Arrested for Counterfeiting U.S. Currency

BK2411134890 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 24 Nov 90

[Text] An international-level gang which counterfeits U.S. banknotes, travelers' checks, and passports has been arrested after a lengthy investigation by the Thai police and a U.S. intelligence agency. Police Major General

Somchai Wanitseni of the Metropolitan Police says financiers rented an apartment for the gang to work and paid 50,000 baht for the gang's counterfeiting job.

Phichai Khathancharoen and Aphichat Sae Ang were arrested at Butsaba Apartment room No. 314 while they were counterfeiting U.S. banknotes, travelers' checks, and printing plates. The U.S. intelligence agency has spent more than 27 million baht in expenses before being able to seize the printing plates for counterfeiting U.S. banknotes. Maj. Gen. Somchai says the gang has connections with narcotics traffickers in the United States.

Minister Endorses Rules on Burmese Dissidents

BK2311034190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Nov 90 p A2

[By Thammasak Lamaiphan and Kulachada Chaipiphat]

[Text] Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha endorsed on Wednesday the ministry's stringent regulations against illegal Burmese involved in anti-Rangoon politics in Thailand.

The regulations permit Thai authorities from all concerned government agencies to prevent or draw up measures to stop the Burmese from illegally sneaking into the country for employment or into Bangkok for political activities against their government.

Under the new rules, all Burmese students and Buddhist monks in Bangkok have to completely halt their political movement or face legal action. And international or private organizations extending assistance and support to the Burmese have to stop their programmes and inform the Interior Ministry of their past activities for a review.

Moreover, those, who are found harbouring or financing the illegal Burmese, can face a five-year jail-term or a fine not exceeding Bt50,000.

The regulations came into effect immediately after the endorsement on Wednesday, Interior Ministry Spokesman Lt [Lieutenant] Kitti Prathumkaeo said.

Kitti told a press conference yesterday that a lot of illegal Burmese immigrants had illegally slipped into the country and have been residing on the Thai-Burmese border areas while some managed to arrive in Bangkok and illegally worked in various places.

Many of them, who are ethnic Mon, Karen, students, monks and civilians, had fled political prosecution into the country, and Thai government agencies as well as the Thai people have been according them humanitarian treatment, he said. And this despite Thai losses, damages and deaths caused by Burmese border fighting, which often affect Thai-Burmese relations.

In a related move, Burmese Ambassdor to Thailand U Nyunt Swe made a courtesy call yesterday on Sarot Chawanawirat, who took up the post of director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs Department early this month.

Suspected Illegal Burmese Immigrants Arrested

BK2811025790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Thirty-two suspected illegal Burmese immigrants, most of them children, were arrested by Crime Suppression Division [CSD] police at a housing estate in Min Buri District yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house in Cho Amonphand Estate in Soi Suan Sayam off Sukhaphiban 2 Road and arrested eight men, two women and 22 children.

CSD 8th Sub-division commander Police Colonel Laksanaphichit Sorat, who ordered the raid, said the eight Burmese men were holding Bangladeshi passports.

Police had yet to find out whether the passports were fakes but in most cases illegal Burmese immigrants were found with counterfeit Bangladeshi passports, he said.

Pol Col Laksanaphichit said the Burmese entered Thailand through Kanchanaburi and had lived in the house rented for them by financiers who might have been involved in smuggling of children to be sold in Malaysia, or to brothels for prostitution or for child labour.

Lao Refugees Petition UNHCR on Repatriation

BK2811123190 Bangkok EKKALAK in Thai 25 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Our correspondent reported from the Lao refugee center in Pakchom District, Loei Province, that Lao refugees in Thailand have sent an open letter to the UN secretary general protesting the repatriation of Lao refugees.

Wu Mai, representative of the Hmong ethnic group, told EKKALAK that Lao refugees at Ban Phae center in Phayao Province, Pakchom center in Loei Province, and Napho center in Nakhon Phanom Province respect the agreement reached between the Thai and Lao Governments on the repatriation of the Lao refugees. They all want to return to their country and contribute to national development. But as Laos is still under communist rule and Vietnam's guidance, the refugees do not feel ready to be repatriated. The refugees said that they would be willing to return home only when all Vietnamese elements are out of their country and the Lao people are given back their rights and freedom. The refugees conveyed their petition through the UN officials at Pakchom center. The UN office informed them that talks would be conducted with the Thai Government and other countries concerning the problems of refugees.

The Lao refugees' letter addressed to the UN secretary general indicated that they are not criminals to be extradited under the law between countries on criminal exchanges, but are political refugees who are victims of brutal repression under communist rule, including arrest, persecution, and massacre by toxic chemicals. The letter says: "Your excellency, there is nobody on earth who wants to abandon their homeland in order to stay in foreign countries. Nobody on earth wants to be a stateless person if living in his country is still bearable."

The letter also points out that any move to force the Lao refugees to return home and face repression by the dictatorial government is in violation of the international charter on human rights. The letter says that the refugees will return only when it has been worked out by the United Nations to have the government in Hanoi unconditionally withdraw all its troops, officials, advisers, and civilians from Laos, when the one-party dictatorship in Laos is out, and when liberties and freedom are reinstated to the Lao people. Any settlement for the Lao refugees must be based on direct talks between representatives of the Lao refugees and the government in Vientiane, and the implementation of agreements reached must be under supervision of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Subin Meets EC Envoys; GATT Talks Discussed

BK2211100990 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 22 Nov 90

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon, Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan told reporters after the ambassadors to Thailand of the 12 member-countries of the European Community [EC] had called on him that the EC ambassadors informed him of the EC stand toward the situation in Kuwait. They said the EC opposes Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and wants Iraq to release all of their people there at one time. To achieve this goal, the EC has been putting economic pressure on Iraq.

On this issue, Subin told the EC envoys that Thailand symphathizes with the EC countries for their people being held hostage by Iraq and that Thailand upholds the resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council on the implementation of economic sanctions against Iraq. The resolution prohibits supplying goods to Iraq and trading with that country.

The foreign minister went on to say that the EC ambassadors also informed him of the stand of the EC member-countries on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade [GATT] Uruguay Round of negotiations, saying that they would reduce subsidies for agricultural production. He told his EC counterparts that although Thailand is a small country among 98 countries, it wants the negotiations to proceed to the last minute in order for an agreement to be reached.

Japanese Encouraged To Increase Investments

BK2411060690 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 90 p B8

[Text] A survey among medium- and small-sized Japanese firms shows that Thailand is still the favourite country for foreign investment with 40 percent of total respondents saying that they will go put money in this country.

The survey, conducted recently, received a total of 9,060 respondents, of which 31 percent said they were interested in investing abroad. Of this 31 percent, 40 percent voted Thailand as their favourite place for overseas investment, according to Fumiya Okada, secretary-general of Japan's ASEAN Centre.

Of the total Japanese firms which voted Thailand as their favourite place, 60 percent already have stakes here. However, Okada said several firms are concerned by reports that there are infrastructure bottlenecks in Thailand because of rapid economic expansion.

The results of the survey were disclosed yesterday at a seminar on investment in Thailand in the 1990's. At the seminar, Board of Investment [BOI] Secretary-General Chira Phanuphong said Japanese firms are encouraged to launch more investments in Thailand to offset a slow-down in projects from other countries.

Already, Thailand's biggest foreign investor, Japan has contributed to the rapid economic growth and its projects are in line with the Thailand government's national development policy in terms of export orientation, technology transfer and local employment.

Chira said Japanese investments in the last three years have shifted towards greater export orientation as 80 percent of total investments are geared for overseas markets, a sharp rise from 10 percent two decades ago. These investments are attributed to the dynamics of the Thai economy during the past years, when double-digit growth rates were recorded.

Chira told the seminar that in the last four years the number of Japanese investors had nearly doubled from 430 in 1986 to 830. He said the BOI will continue to promote investments in fields that Thailand has competitive advantages in the world markets, such as agro-industries, chemicals and engineering sectors.

Japanese Ambassador Hisahiko Azaki said Japanese investments would not slow down in the next five years as predicted by the Ministry of International Trade and Industries. Between 1989 and 1993, overseas investments by Japanese firms will likely grow from three to 5.2 percent of total Japanese investments.

Although the Gulf crisis has had an impact on the Thai economy, the growth momentum will be sustained. However, he noted that Thailand's neighbours also have increased their effort to attract foreign investments.

He listed political, economic and social stability as the decisive factor for Japanese firms when they want to invest abroad.

Being a democratic country, Thailand is favoured by many Japanese who also welcome the country's decision to accept obligations under the Article 8 of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement.

Nigerians Arrested for Possession of Heroin

BK2411060090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 90 p A3

[By David Tuck]

[Text] Narcotics suppression officers at Don Muang airport arrested three Nigerians on Thursday night on charges of trying to smuggle three kilogrammes of heroin out of the country.

The three men, Okey Ndebedum, 31, Vincent Ajomine Ohaechesi, 32, and Jeff Frank Kenedy, 32, intended to travel to the Nigerian capital, Lagos, via Sofia in Bulgaria, Customs chief Dr Aran Thammano said yesterday.

After searching the three men at the airport, the officers took them to nearby Wiphawadi Hospital to be X-rayed. The X-rays revealed that each of the three had swallowed condoms packed with a substance presumed to be heroin.

Following their arreast, the Nigerians denied that they had committed an offence, contending that they had only "eaten garlic". However, one of them later admitted that he had swallowed about 300 grammes of heroin.

On previous occasions Nigerian couriers have been arrested after swallowing up to one kilogramme of heroin-filled condoms. The Thai market price of a kilogramme of No 4 heroin is currently about Bt700,000, with a street value of up to Bt20 million in the US.

The officers suspect that the three men, whose flight included a two-day stopover in the Bulgarian capital, were to have passed the drugs on to a third party in that period.

Customs and police officials are looking for a fourth Nigerian who had confirmed his flight with the three others but did show up at the airport. The arrests bring to over 100 the number of Nigerians arrested in the last two years for drug smuggling.

Chatchai Reportedly Bargained To Keep Chaloem

BK2311054990 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 23 Nov 90 p 22

[Excerpts] In retaining Chaloem Yubamrung in the latest cabinet reshuffle by making him deputy education minister, Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan is considered by many people to have broken a pledge to the military and to have reneged on a statement he made before leaving for Japan that the new cabinet would not include Chaloem and his Muanchon Party. Commenting on this, a government house source says the cabinet reshuffle amounts to a compromise between the military and the government because the post of deputy education minister is tantamount to a demotion of Chaloem's role and rank. At cabinet meetings, ministers attached to the prime minister's office sit behind deputy prime ministers; Chaloem will now sit at the end of the table as deputy education minister.

According to a report, Gen. Chatchai informed military leaders that he could not remove Chaloem because an earlier meeting of seven coalition parties had agreed that his removal would show that the government had succumbed to military pressure, thus tarnishing the government's image. Chatchai reportedly bargained unsuccessfully with the military to keep Chaleom as minister attached to the prime minister's office. Chaloem, however, would lose control of the Mass Communications Organization and be given supervision of the Dusit Zoo instead. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Army has reportedly set a policy that is effective immediately, for its units particularly its radio and television network, to refrain from commenting on Chaloem and from any political involvement. This is to create a new image of political noninvolvement for itself and to avoid future allegations about pressuring the government.

Military Leaders To 'Keep Silent' on Reshuffle

BK2511025090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] The Military top brass has decided to keep silent and to stop criticising Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan about the recent Cabinet reshuffle.

Supreme Commander Sunthon Khongsomphong told reporters at a hotel in Pattaya on Friday night that he didn't want to discuss politics any more because he would be accused of pressuring the Government. "So we decided to call it quits. And I request you not to ask me any more questions about it," he said.

Asked about Prime Minister Chatchai's pledge to drop former Prime Minister's Office minister Chaloem Yubamrung from the cabinet, Gen [General] Sunthon said that he didn't know about this, adding the matter now depends on the Prime Minister.

The Supreme Commander gave an assurance the military would not resort to undemocratic means to put pressure on the government "because we soldiers have discipline." He warned the Government not to overstep the line, however, "other wise we will blow the whistle."

Meanwhile, Army spokesman Anuson Kritsanaserani said yesterday the military had decided to stop discussing the Cabinet reshuffle issue, but would instead concentrate on preparations for a parade on December 3 to commemorate His Majesty the King's birthday on December 5.

Commenting on the Prime Minister's rejection of the military recommendation to have Chaloem excluded from the cabinet, he said the military had to keep quiet because there was already a Royal Command putting the

Cabinet shakeup into effect, including the swap of positions between Chaloem and Deputy Education Minister Sora-at Klinprathum. "We have discipline. We will not criticise the appointment," he said.

Maj-Gen [Major General] Anusorn said Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun had told all his subordinates to concentrate on preparations for the parade.

In a show of dissatisfaction towards the Cabinet shakeup, the military top brass has decided to distance itself from the Prime Minister. On Wednesday, it boycotted the weekly working breakfast with the Prime Minister and on Friday shunned a Defence Council meeting.

Army Commander Reiterates Stand

BK2811103490 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0534 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Army Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun told newsmen that he had an audience with his majesty the king and queen today under a routine schedule of the Army to provide security to their majesties. He said that he also presented to the king a single side band communications equipment for a test use. The equipment is intended to replace the old set used by the king, which had the problem of frequency interference. Gen. Suchinda said that his trip today had nothing to do with politics.

The Army commander said that he has nothing more to say about politics. He asserted that the soldiers would do whatever is correct and would try to rid the country of bad elements. He said the soldiers will stand by the people and will try to achieve the people's desires. He said that the military confirmed its previous stand, and from now on it will give no more advice [to] the government.

[Begin recording] [Suchinda, in progress] We have nothing to say now. We have pledged that the soldiers would do the right things and will try to eliminate bad elements from the country. We stand side by side with the people, and will try to achieve whatever is the desire of the people. That's all.

[Reporter] What would be the future stand of the military as it has already failed to get a positive response from the government concerning its previous proposal?

[Suchinda] We stand firm on our intention. We have not changed it. It remains the same. We have not changed.

[Reporter] A retired general said that what happened made him lose faith in several military officers in the government...

[Suchinda] Well, I have no opinion about that. Anyway, that person did not mention specifics.

[Reporter] Well, what you have just said—that soldiers have not changed their intention, what do you mean by that?

[Suchinda] Yes, we have not changed.

[Reporter] Are you going to make new proposals to the government?

[Suchinda] I don't think we would make any more proposals. [end recording]

The Army commander also mentioned about a letter sent to him by a retired military officer. He said that the practice is usual among soldiers because soldiers always feel that they are part of the Army and therefore are concerned about each other.

Supreme Commander Sunthon Urges Navy Expansion

BK2411071390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Nov 90 p A2

[By Kokhet Chanthaloetlak]

[Text] The Royal Navy needs to be expanded in the face of a rapidly changing world and to be ready for any eventuality, said Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong yesterday. The expansion was also needed because of the government's Eastern and Southern Seaboard development projects, Sunthon said.

The supreme commander also instructed naval officers to be on the alert because of the current uncertain situation. He was speaking to reporters at the Sattahip Royal Navy base in Chon Buri Province yesterday, after inspecting a Royal Navy parade.

Sunthon added that he would present his proposal on the expansion of the navy to the government.

When asked to clarify his statement asking the navy to be "ready," the general said: "Today's world is changing very fast. If we still stick with the old rule book, our country will be left behind. "It is necessary to expand the Royal Thai Navy forces. We have already proposed some of the (expansion) projects to the government."

He declined to elaborate on the projects, saying only that the navy needed to enhance its equipment and manpower.

Sunthon refused to answer any question about Wednesday's Cabinet reshuffle.

When asked whether the expansion plan would be feasible in the face of the "gloomy" relations between the military and the government, Gen Sunthon said: "This is a different matter. We are doing our duty as stated in the Constitution.

"To expand the naval force only when the situation calls for it will be too late. The government has to judge the importance of the issue because the navy must be ready all the time."

Vietnam

Solving of Cambodian Issue Said 'Accelerated'

BK2711154190 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The process of solving the Cambodian question is being accelerated thanks to the active role played by first of all Indonesia, one of the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, by the state of Cambodia, Vietnam, and other countries.

Following the failure to operate the newly set up Supreme National Council, SNC, due to deadlock in its leadership, Indonesia has acted to renew the process of solving the Cambodian problem. A kind of shuttle diplomacy, the Indonesian diplomat flew to many countries and made a wide range of contacts with officials of the five members of the UN Security Council, Vietnam and countries concerned to Cambodia.

In particular, the Indonesian foreign minister held a host of important meetings with the officials of China, Vietnam and the foreign minister of the Cambodian state. He described these contacts as important preparations for the forthcoming Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

For its part, Vietnam has also made important contributions to a solution to Cambodia. On the basis of respect for the independence and sovereignty of Cambodia, Vietnam has scrupulously honored its commitment to a complete troop withdrawal from Cambodia.

Speaking at a press conference in Hanoi on November 21st, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said: His Vietnamese counterpart, Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, shared with him the views, suggestions, and positions with the goal of certain important aspects of the draft of an overall agreement which they are going to elaborate on the basis of the big five documents. He added that these are very important input that the two co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia will take into consideration. Meanwhile, in Hanoi, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and his Cambodian counterpart Hor Namhong met to discuss common measures toward the solution to Cambodia.

Amidst these positive developments, the lack of goodwill expressed by some opposition groups in Cambodia is giving rise to public concern. The notorious Khmer Rouge are reported to be stepping up military action in the Northern Cambodian provinces while trying to block the activities of the SNC.

The Khmer Rouge have turned down the proposal by Chairman Hun Sen to ensure the equal footing of all sides within SNC. Mr Hun Sen has suggested that the SNC should have two council chairmen or two co-chairmen taking turns in chairing the council. Recently, to solve the deadlock, Chairman Hun Sen compromised by accepting the chairmanship of Prince Sihanouk for SNC. That means Mr. Hun Sen would be vice chairman of the council to ensure the minimum equal footing between the Phnom Penh government and opposition groups. The idea voiced by Mr. Hun Sen demonstrated further goodwill of the Cambodian government and is expected to help solve the deadlock of the SNC.

Reports say that Prince Sihanouk has accepted Mr. Hun Sen's proposal while a number of concerned countries have voiced their support pending a Khmer Rouge response. It is believed that a favorable response from the Khmer Rouge will help accelerate a solution to Cambodia. This is because alongside Mr. Hun Sen's proposal, the big five are discussing details with Indonesia an invitation to governments concerned to the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [sentence as heard]. It is time to bring the process of solving the Cambodian problem to an end and the solution to Cambodia as stated by the two foreign ministers of Vietnam and Indonesia at the same press conference in Hanoi will be beneficial to Vietnam, Indonesia, all Southeast Asian countries, and many other countries all over the world.

Nine Ship Crewmen Returned to China 27 Nov

BK2811102090 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Vietnam on Tuesday handed over to China at the Huu Nghi Friendship Border Gate of Lang Son Province, North Vietnam, nine Chinese crewmen and an urn with ashes of a crewman from the Changsan Ship. These Chinese were saved by the people in Quang Nam-Danang Province on 11 November when the ship had an accident. The Chinese side thanked the local people for their assistance to the victimized Chinese.

10th Plenum Resolution on Draft Report Issued

BK2711123190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1117 GMT 27 Nov 90

["Resolution of the sixth party Central Committee's tenth plenum on the draft report on party building and amendments to party regulations and the draft copy of amended party regulations"]

[Text] 1. The sixth party Central Committee's tenth plenum held from 17 to 26 November 1990 discussed a draft report on party building and amendments to party regulations, and a draft copy of amended party regulations. The plenum has contributed many important views to these draft documents.

2. The sixth party Central Committee's tenth plenum assigned the party Central Committee Political Bureau and the sub-committee for drafting the report on party building and amendments to party regulations to perfect these two draft documents based on the views of the party Central Committee.

3. The party Central Committee authorized the Political Bureau to decide the organization of soliciting views of all party members on the aforementioned documents before submitting them to the seventh national party congress.

[Dated] Hanoi, 26 November 1990.

[Signed] The Sixth Party Central Committee's Tenth Plenum.

Radio Broadcasts Communique of 10th Party Plenum

BK2711140790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Nov 90

["Text" of communique of the party Central Committee's 17-26 November 1990 tenth plenum]

[Text] The Sixth Party Central Committee's tenth plenum was held in Hanoi from 17-26 November 1990 with Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh delivering the opening and closing speeches.

The plenum concentrated on discussing and passing a resolution on the orientations for directing the 1991 socioeconomic development plan, a resolution on a draft report on party building and on the revision of party regulations, and a revised draft of party regulations to be submitted to the seventh party congress.

1. Regarding the orientations for directing the 1991 socioeconomic development plan, the sixth party Central Committee's tenth plenum heard Comrade Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau, report on the situation regarding the implementation of the 1990 state plan and the orientations, objectives, and tasks of the 1991 state plan. The plenum discussed and unanimously assessed the implementation of the 1990 plan as follows:

The socioeconomic situation in our country experienced some impressive changes. Grain production continued to be increased; the export value increased remarkably; and efforts to fight smuggling, tax collection shortfalls, and corruption—although just starting—have produced initial results. Under conditions where our capital resources are limited, we concentrated our capital construction money on building a number of key projects to be promptly put into production. The policy of bringing various economic components into play continued to have its effect. The subsidy-based mechanism was further diminished while political stability and national defense, security, and foreign relations activities were guaranteed.

The above results, although not comprehensive, have asserted that our party and state's orientations and measures are correct and that our people's efforts are great. The 1990 socioeconomic situation, however, is still poor in many respects. The economy is affected by many great imbalances and by slow and ineffective development. The gross national product and national revenue show a slow increase. The state-run economy has met numerous obstacles. Worthy of note is that the majority of state-, locally-, and collectively-run economic establishments in industry and trade have not yet been suitable to the new mechanism. There is a shortage of operating funds. The marketing of products is difficult. The budget deficit remains large. Efforts to correct shortcomings in monetary and credit management are still slow. Many nongovernmental credit organizations have been bankrupt and this has created a very bad impact. Prices in general have not yet been stable. Unemployment increases while the lives of a segment of workers and peasants, the majority of administrative and service cadres and personnel, members of the armed forces, and pensioners have recently experienced acute difficulties. Many aspects of the cultural and social areas are not good. Public order and safety are still complicated.

The reasons for the above situation, apart from what has already been cited in the conclusion reached at the sixth party Central Committee's ninth plenum, are:

Due to the impact of the complicated world situation, our source of overseas revenue, which formerly accounted for a large part of the total revenue, has dropped substantially at a time when we are having to service our foreign debt, when prices of many imported materials have increased sharply, and when natural calamities have occurred repeatedly.

Subjectively, guidance and implementation of large-scale tasks have not met the requirements of the new management mechanism. Formulation of lines and policies for ensuring an effective, correct advancement of production and business was not sufficient and implementation was carried out slowly. Efforts to overcome shortcomings and loopholes of the promulgated lines and policies were not promptly made, while control and inspection were not serious and legal action against violations was slowly carried out. Moreover, observance of rules and regulations was not serious, efforts to overcome negative phenomena were made slowly, and personnel organization was cumbersome and ineffective.

Implementation of the 1991 state plan will be carried out against the background of a complicated international situation. All our nation's economic activities with foreign countries must be settled by using hard currencies at world market prices.

The objectives of the 1991 socioeconomic development program are to consolidate and bring into full play the achievements made in 1990, strive to overcome new socioeconomic difficulties, maintain political stability, create favorable conditions for further development in the years ahead, strive to attain an increase in the gross social product and national revenue over that of 1990. Efforts must be integrated to carry out the three major economic development programs, namely the production of grains and food, the production of consumer goods, and the production of goods for export. We must strive to supply sufficient materials, raw materials, and essential facilities for these three economic programs.

We must strive to curb inflation and stop all causes leading to the high rate of inflation, overcome budget overdraft, control price fluctuation, seriously implement the practice of thrift, and resolutely resolve social issues. It is imperative to accelerate production development; provide more jobs for workers; and diminish difficulties in the daily life of the people, particularly for specialized administrative officials, members of the armed forces, retirees, and those who are entitled to receive social welfare allowances. Efforts should be made to enhance the results of education, cultural, and public health activities. Attention must be paid especially to the ethnic minority groups and people who live in mountain and border areas. We must strive to carry out national defense and security tasks, and maintain social order and safety.

Guiding orientations for the 1991 state plan:

A. Efforts should be made to uphold the spirit of self-reliance; bring into full play all the existing capabilities; and exploit potential in land, natural resources, labor, material-technical bases, and domestic capital. We must strive to expand relations with foreign countries, find more markets for our products, encourage foreign investment, and gain foreign technology. We must develop production, especially the production of grains and food, consumer goods, and goods for export on the basis of applying scientific-technological innovations. We must accelerate industrial production, especially the processing industry, to serve the three major economic programs. Efforts should be made to increase the means of production in the country to replace materials and equipment imported from foreign countries. We must strive to increase the production of goods for export to earn more money for importing raw materials and essential consumer goods. We must continue to eliminate state subsidies to production, business, and capital construction and through investment, prices, and wages, while striving to vigorously shift to a socialist business accounting system.

Consolidating state-run economy: Efforts should be made to resolve difficulties for all state-run economic establishments, especially important establishments and enterprises which have favorable conditions to surge forward to achieve results.

With respect to the state-run economic installations that have suffered prolonged business losses, especially those primary installations that do not belong to the domain of production and the vital sectors, they must be resolutely dealt with by transferring their ownership or disbanding them.

Guidance should be urgently provided for the implementation of measures set forth on the intensification of managerial control over enterprises and the supplements and amendments to Decision No. 217 of the Council of Ministers.

Action should be taken to consolidate cooperatives, encourage the development of family-based economies, concentrate investment on targeted projects and sectors—first of all investment in agricultural production, the manufacture of consumer and export goods, and the processing of agricultural products and some heavy industries—and directly support the three major economic programs.

Effort must be exerted to create more jobs; reduce the unemployment rate; supplement the systems and policies to mobilize many sources of investments—including those of people who have returned home from overseas under the international labor cooperation programs—for the development of trades and jobs; invest in the organization and exploitation of midlands and mountainous regions; expand economic cooperation with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit without encroaching on each other's sovereignty; struggle to gain traditional markets and emphasize the expansion of markets in other countries; concentrate all sources of strength to ensure balance in key aspects of the economy; correctly settle relations between export and domestic demands, especially for grain; and formulate export-import plans and plan the use of foreign currencies.

All trade in foreign currencies must be made through banks. The central state centralizes managerial control over the use of a major part of foreign currencies to ensure the importing of vital materials and equipment and other commodities essential to the common needs of the entire country and localities. The legitimate interests of those people and units who own the foreign currencies, however, must be protected.

The mechanism of credit must be renovated to attract all sources of idle capital in the society to support the development of production and business and ensure the interests of money depositors on the basis of restraining and reducing inflation and of actively solving the problem of capital to meet the pressing requirements of production and business.

The financial and banking sectors must satisfactorily discharge their function of a payment center to deal with prolonged debts and misappropriation of one another's funds in the economy.

Action must be continually taken to check inflation; reduce the rates of state budget overdraft; intensify the mobilization and close management of all sources of revenues; adequately concentrate all sources of revenue on the budget as prescribed by law; and take uniform measures to ensure balance, regulate supply and demand, and prevent an unexpected upsurge in prices of staple commodities.

Resolute and urgent measures must be taken to reduce the staff personnel of administrative and professional agencies and organizations of the party and state machineries and associations. We must strive to stabilize market prices to ensure the realistic income of workers, and provide cost-of-living allowances to cadres and personnel of the administrative and professional sectors, the armed forces members, retired cadres, and other recipients of the social policies.

B. Thrift must be practiced strictly in production and consumption. We must spend most economically; positively reduce nonurgent expenses; strictly economize on administrative expenses, especially for meetings and receptions; limit the import of nonessential consumer goods; and emphasize and formulate concrete policies on practicing thrift in production and capital construction. Spending should not exceed our production capability.

The state budget can only be spent within our revenue generating capacity. If revenue is inadequate, we should borrow money from the people and if this is still not enough, various sectors, localities, the state, and the people should jointly shoulder difficulties by sharing the budgetary burden and broadening various forms of joint venture by the state and the people. It is necessary to inspect and strictly deal with all acts causing loss of money, assets, and property of the state and the people in any form and to oppose an ostentatious, formal, slavish, and wasteful lifestyle.

C. Everyone must live off their own labor and legitimately obtained income; persistently carry on the struggle against corruption, smuggling, budgetary revenue shortfalls, and all illegitimately obtained income; and overcome the unfairness in the distribution of income.

Party cadres and members must maintain their revolutionary qualities and ethics; must uphold and enhance the qualities of industry, thrift, integrity, and righteousness which were once taught by Uncle Ho; and must adopt a clean and wholesome lifestyle.

On the basis of the orientations and guiding thoughts cited above, it is necessary to present the 1991 budget plan with specific tasks and objectives to the eighth National Assembly's eighth session for consideration and decision.

The sixth party Central Committee's tenth plenum maintains that 1991 is a year of special significance as it is the first year of the 1991-95 five-year plan. Although we have many new favorable conditions, there are many difficulties and great ordeals associated with our socioeconomic development. Party committee echelons must direct the entire party and people to firmly maintain their unity and unify their thoughts and actions. They must strengthen the relations between party and people and motivate and rally people of all strata to develop advantages and overcome difficulties in implementing the state plan and in firmly maintaining national defense and security as well as public order and safety, and in contributing to the satisfactory holding of party organization congresses at various levels and at the seventh party congress.

2. The sixth party Central Committee's tenth plenum heard Comrade Nguyen Duc Tam, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Subcommittee for Drafting a Report on Party-Building and on the Revision of Party Regulations, and Preparing a Draft of Revised Party Regulations, give a briefing on the process of preparing these two documents and those matters to be discussed by the party Central Committee.

The party Central Committee's plenum contributed many important suggestions to the two documents and empowered with Political Bureau with the authority to solicit the opinions of the entire party on the above two documents prior to submitting them to the seventh party congress.

FRG Official Discusses Economic Cooperation

BK2711151990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Interview with (Rainer Wasser), representative of the Culture Ministry of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, FRG, during his "recent" visit to Vietnam's Central Institute of Economic Management, on relations of cooperation between Vietnam and North Rhine-Westphalia—recorded in German fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Summary] [Reporter] "Could you tell us of the relationship between North Rhine-Westphalia and Vietnam?"

[(Wasser)] "The cooperation between the government of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Vietnamese Government began in 1989 at a time when reunification of the two Germanys was not in sight."

To achieve economic development, in principle, there are two important elements, namely attracting capital and training personnel. "As in the FRG in general and in the State of North Rhine-Westphalia in particular, almost all the enterprises are privately run and there are almost no state enterprises in existence. Therefore, the responsibility for facilitating the attraction of capital from our country does not rest with the government of our state. Our government, however, has assumed the duty of conducting training and additional training to turn out skilled workers and supervisors as was discussed in the two recent seminars. This kind of cooperation between Vietnam and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia will continue and will be strengthened in the years to come. In addition, it is certain that the government of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia still strive within its economic capability to provide economic assistance to Vietnam."

[Reporter] Is there anything still affecting relations between Vietnam and the FRG?

[(Wasser)] "As Germany was already unified, a common government for the entire Germany will increase its cooperation with Vietnam. I believes that this is a fact because we have had a tradition of cooperation between Vietnam and the GDR."

[Reporter] Could you speak about whether the U.S. embargo policy will adversely affect relations between our two countries?

[(Wasser)] "Western countries, of course, have a common policy. But facts over the years show that Western countries no longer want to see social and economic conflicts in the world. Therefore, I also think that it is the common desire of all countries—not only of Vietnam and Cambodia but also of those in the Indochina peninsula, Southeast Asia, and East Asia—to enjoy a peaceful atmosphere and that this region will participate more positively in the common process of economic development in the world. This is not a matter concerning only Western countries. I know there has been a rapprochement between Vietnam and China and this will contribute to improving the regional situation."

I hope that all people on this earth realize that war will only bring suffering and that only through economic cooperation can various nations achieve progress.

Army Paper Discusses Thatcher Resignation

BK2811124190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Nov 90

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 26 November commentary: "Mrs. Thatcher's Sad Departure"]

[Summary] The recent resignation of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has won wide coverage by the press and extensive discussion by public opinion at home and abroad. "Her resignation was made against the background of the seething political situation in Great Britain: Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Howe resigned; Mrs. Thatcher was defeated by former Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine in the 20 November Conservative Party's leader election."

The public in the United States and other Western countries expressed regret for the abrupt resignation of Mrs. Thatcher, while opinion in the United Kingdom had it that her departure was sensible.

In fact, the political situation in Great Britian has developed unfavorably for Mrs. Thatcher and her Conservative Party for quite a long time. The Labor Party has held that "Thatcherism is coming to an end."

During the past 11 years, the "Iron Lady" was notorious for serving only the monopolistic capitalist companies while imposing rigid policies on the British workers that run counter to their interests. Early this year, a new wave against the British Government emerged after the promulgation of the poll tax which adversely affected more than half of the British population.

Regarding British foreign policy, the Thatcher government has pursued an ultra-rightist line and was appraised by Washington as "its most reliable ally in Europe." Two years after assuming power, Mrs. Thatcher turned the United Kingdom into one of the largest U.S. nuclear arms depots in the region.

The prestige of the Thatcher government has been deteriorating as manifested by the Conservative Party's defeat to the Labor Party in the March and October 1990 by-elections. Worse still was that Mrs. Thatcher failed to gain enough votes to defeat former Defense Secretary Heseltine in the recent Conservative Party leadership election which forced her to resign.

"Mrs. Thatcher maintaining her position as British prime minister for 11 years, however, was not an easy task. Nevertheless, during her years in power, she committed many mistakes due to her policy of serving the capitalist circle and belittling the interests of the majority of the laboring people."

Mrs. Thatcher's legacy for the United Kingdom after more than a decade in power is an image of a conservative, tiresome, and less competitive England. "It can be said that with this sad departure, the Thatcher era has come to an end."

Australia

Hawke Greets New British Prime Minister Major

BK2811075590 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Mr. Hawke, has joined other world leaders in congratulating Mr. John Major on becoming Britain's new prime minister. In his message, he says Mr. Major will be taking over from Mrs. Thatcher at a critically important time. Mr. Hawke says the search for a successful end to the current GATT international trade talks, the international response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and the new order in Europe will shape the world for many years to come.

He also notes that the historical ties between Australia and Britain are increasingly being supplemented by a recognition that both countries have much to offer each other. And the prime minister expresses the hope that under Mr. Major's leadership that process will continue.

GATT Proposal Regarded as 'Small Step'

BK2811082190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] Canberra, Nov 28 (AFP)—Australia made clear Wednesday that it regards the latest attempt to break the deadlock in world farm trade talks as welcome but a long way from the kind of compromise it would regard as acceptable.

The director-general of the agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT), Arthur Dunkel, proposed Tuesday in Geneva using April 1989 as the base date from which to calculate reductions in agricultural protection. The effect would be a marginally deeper cut in protection than has been suggested by the European Economic Community, which has offered a 30 per cent aggregate cut over ten years from 1986.

Even if accepted by the EEC, it would still leave the European offer far below what the Australian-led Cairns Group and the United States are demanding.

Australia's trade negotations minister Neal Blewett described Mr. Dunkel's offer as a "small step" towards an acceptable compromise, but said a lot more would be needed to satisfy agricultural exporting nations like Australia.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke added his weight Wednesday, putting immediate pressure on Britain's New Prime Minister John Major to work for a more flexible position. Mr. Hawke said he hoped Mr. Major would maintain Britain's campaign to end the EEC's damaging agricultural policies.

In a formal message of congratulations to Mr. Major, he listed the trade negotiations as the first of three issues critical to the future international system. The Cairns Group and the U.S. want cuts of 75 per cent in border protection and internal support and 90 per cent in export subsidies over 10 years from the late 1980s.

Mr. Blewett has warned that the EEC must agree to explicit cuts in all three areas before negotiations can even start on percentages. Without that, the whole round of 15 different negotiating areas would fail.

Mr. Blewett leaves Thursday for Brussels where he will attend a meeting of the Cairns Group to finalise strategy on Sunday.

On Monday trade ministers meet on what was supposed to be the wrap-up meeting of the round, but instead will be a search for a political solution to deadlocks on agriculture, anti-dumping rules, investment and services.

In another development Wednesday, the United States promised Australia and its Cairns Group allies that it would do no "side deals" with the EEC on agriculture. The promise, made by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills in a phone conversation with Mr. Blewett, is seen here as an important move to ensure the solidarity of the reform forces.

Although the U.S. position on farm trade reform is very close to the Cairns Group's, there had been fears that if the talks failed, Washington might try to head off an escalating trade war with Europe by doing deals on the side. This would have left the major Cairns Group farm producers like Australia, Canada and Argentina even further in the cold.

Mr. Blewett said the U.S. had made it very clear to the Cairns Group that there would be no side deals with Europe on agriculture. "That has certainly helped very much the resolution of the Cairns Group," he said.

Minister Criticizes EC Over Protectionism

BK2711120190 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 27 Nov 90

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia's trade negotiations minister, Dr. Neal Blewett, flies to Brussels on Thursday [29 November] pessimistic about an important meeting meant to free international trade. Dr. Blewett will attend next week's final session of the four-year Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks held under the auspices of GATT—the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. As Richard Andrews reports from Canberra, it is feared the meeting will end in a deadlock over trade protection.

[Begin recording] [Andrews] Dr. Blewett is leaving for Brussels amidst gloomy predictions of an international trade war, if there is no successful resolution to next week's meeting. The Uruguay round was met to reduce a wide range of barriers to world trade, such as farm subsidies, protection against textile imports, and copyright infringements. But negotiations have stalled over the European Community's stand on export subsidies and income support for domestic farmers who form a powerful political lobby group.

Europe has agreed to cut farm support by 30 percent over 10 years but this falls well short of the demands made by the United States and the Cairns Group of 14 agricultural countries led by Australia.

In an attempt to break the deadlock, there had been a number of meetings in recent weeks held under the shadow of the December deadline. And I asked Dr. Blewett whether any possible signs of compromise had emerged.

[Blewett] No, there has been no real movement in the last few weeks. Agriculture, above all, has deadlocked the whole round, and the deadlock in agriculture has obviously poisoned some of the discussions in other areas.

[Andrews] Why can't America and the Cairns Group accept the European offer of a 30 percent cut in farm subsidies, wouldn't a bad deal be better than do deal at all?

[Blewett] Well, first of all, it is not even a 30 percent cut because in fact the date is 1986, so about 15 percent of the 30 percent has already gone without any major effects on agricultural trade. That shows the superficiality of what is being offered. Secondly, 1986 was a high point in European subsidies so it is a very artificial starting date. But, the major point is that the European Community is not prepared to make specific commitments in the three areas of great concern. That is, particularly on border protection, they will not make a specific commitment to cuts there—the 30 percent is just an overall, vague thing, it is not a cut in border protection. And perhaps even more importantly, they will not make a commitment to a 30 percent cut in export subsidies. If they were prepared to start making some explicit decisions, such as—yes, we will cut export subsidies by that; yes, we will cut border protection by then—we might have a negotiating position.

[Andrews] Do you think the world trading system is being held hostage by a small number of farmers?

[Blewett] I think that the whole world trading system is endangered by the inflexibility of the European position in agriculture. That is not just the view of the Cairns Group. That is not just the view of the Americans. I think, increasingly, it is the view of all those who look objectively at the problems in a multilateral trading system. Today, overwhelmingly, I think they are agreed that European resistance to movement—real movement—in the agriculture area is what threatens the whole of the international trading system.

[Andrews] Australia has just announced $400 million worth of credit to the Soviet Union in order to enable them to buy our wool and other commodities. Could we be accused of indirect subsidies for our farmers?

[Blewett] No. Because every country does this; that is, particularly in relation to poorer countries and also countries which are having particular economic difficulties, such as the Soviet Union, concessionary credits are provided. The Germans, for instance, have provided massive credits to the Soviet Union and so, there is not going to be any accusation against us for providing credit under these concessionary terms. What we are not doing is providing actual subsidies to reduce the price of our goods. For instance, at the moment, the Europeans and the Americans are paying more in subsidy per ton for their wheat for the international market than our Australian farmers are getting in price for a ton of wheat. [end recording]

Evans Responds to Report on Papua New Guinea

BK2711113190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1039 GMT 27 Nov 90

[Text] Canberra, Nov 27 (AFP)—Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Tuesday the Papua New Guinea Government's commitment to human rights was the best guarantee allegations of human rights violations on Bougainville would be investigated.

Mr. Evans told parliament that 67 cases involving alleged violations now before the court in Rabaul were evidence of Port Moresby's attitude. He was responding on behalf of the Australian Government to a report by Amnesty International alleging summary execution, torture and ill-treatment by both sides in Bougainville's secessionist uprising.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu on Monday described as nonsense the claim by Amnesty that his government had done little to investigate alleged human rights violations.

Mr. Evans said he shared Port Moresby's concern with the contents of the report.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke had in September told Mr. Namaliu and his senior ministers of Australia's concern that human rights abuses be investigated, Mr. Evans added. He said the Papua New Guinea Government had shown its commitment with governmental inquiries into allegations, the 67 cases before the Rabaul court, and its proposal for an international committee of jurists to investigate abuses by both sides. But the rebel Bougainville Revolutionary Army had rejected the international committee.

The minister said Australia was helping train Papua New Guinea defence force personnel on human rights issues.

Amnesty sharply critised the Papua New Guinea Government for failing to investigate allegations of unarmed civilians being tortured and killed by security forces. It said evidence existed of 19 cases in which people had died in extra-judicial executions or after being tortured in custody.

Many more cases of torture or ill-treatment and dozens of raids on villages where property was destroyed and villagers beaten and even shot and killed were also catalogued. Yet only one soldier was known to have been brought to justice, Amnesty said.

Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Canberra, Paul Songo, said Australians need to put Amnesty International's claims of human rights violations on Bougainville into perspective. He said there was no need, as suggested by Amnesty, for Australia to introduce legislative safeguards on the use of military equipment provided under a bilateral defence program.

Mr. Songo said in an interview Australians should take into account the fact that the Amnesty report dealt with human rights issues in some 130 countries, not just Papua New Guinea.

"We are only 15 years old as a nation and there are major problems we have to deal with," he said. "There were mistakes made (on Bougainville) but there is the will of the government to consider the allegations which have been made and mutually arrange for appropriate authorities to investigate them."

However, he said the continuing conflict between Bougainville secessionist leaders and the Papua New Guinea Government hampered investigations.

He said the "heavy handed approach" alleged by Amnesty was not reflected in the way his government had dealt with the recent return of security forces to Buka Island, which is just off the main island of Bougainville. "It is acting more on the humane aspects," Mr. Songo said.

Papua New Guinea

Amnesty Group Warns of Torture in Bougainville

BK2611103590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 26 Nov 90

[Text] Sydney, Nov 26 (AFP)—Amnesty International warned Monday that Papua New Guinea forces allegedly responsible for killing and torturing people on the rebel-held island of Bougainville during the last two years could do the same again unless controlled.

A report by the London-based human rights organisation on human rights violations on the island cites what it described as well-documented cases, including 19 people who died in apparent extrajudicial executions, or after being tortured in custody. It said more than 50 other cases had been documented of people ill-treated or tortured by police or military forces.

"We also received reports that members of the security forces attacked over 40 villages, burning houses, beating and sexually abusing villagers and killing dozens of people including children as young as three months," it said.

Amnesty said the Australian Government (former administrator of the United Nations Trust Territory of Papua New Guinea before its independence in 1975), had an important continuing role.

It referred to inadequacies in Australia's policies regarding military, security and police transfers, which it said was particularly true of its training, military aid to Papua New Guinea and lack of appropriate legislative provisions.

"The urgency of this is highlighted by events in Papua New Guinea. We are calling upon the Australian Government to rectify these inadequacies," the report said.

The investigation followed reports of violations which began to emerge soon after Port Moresby launched a counter-insurgency operation against Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) rebels in early 1989. They increased after a state of emergency was imposed in June 1989, giving the security forces sweeping powers and immunity from prosecution, the report added.

Victims of the violations included journalists, religious workers, politicians, doctors, government workers and villagers. The report said one politician was forced to lick the blood of a slain policeman.

"Another man was beaten so badly his leg had to be amputated and he later died and a pastor and five congregation members were seized on the streets, beaten, stripped and shot dead," it said. There had also been widespread reports of ill-treatment, torture and killings by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

BRA forces had apparently continued to commit such abuses after government troops were withdrawn from the island and the BRA had de facto authority there.

Amnesty said it acknowledged the serious political, economic and social problems which Papua New Guinea faced. But it believed the "legal and constitutional safeguards to protect human rights proved themselves very vulnerable when put to unprecedented test by the Bougainville crisis."

The government had taken few steps to stop the violations and some government officials had actually condoned them, it said.

Amnesty said that as a safeguard against future violations there must be guarantees that the judicial system would be able to function freely and effectively.

Government investigations into abuses by the military were long overdue and amnesty knew of only one soldier who had been brought to justice. "We fear that without effective measures being taken, the security forces could kill and torture again if they are redeployed in Bougainville and are once again allowed to take the law into their own hands," it said.

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu described as "nonsense" amnesty's allegations that his government had taken few steps to stop or investigate the alleged violations. "The national government has made it abundantly clear that human rights abuses by any party in Papua New Guinea are intolerable," he said.

"We have repeatedly encouraged those who claim to have grievances to seek redress in the courts of the land." He said it was outrageous for amnesty to seek guarantees that the judicial system would be allowed to function freely and effectively.

"Papua New Guinea's judicial system is totally free of control or influence from any political source," he said. "It is a gratuitous insult to the people of this sovereign nation to suggest otherwise."

Ministers Apologize for No-Confidence Motion

BK2811071090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 90

[Text] In Papua New Guinea, the three members of the coalition government who signed a petition to overthrow it earlier this month have apologized to the prime minister. Mr. Timothy Bonga, Mr. Peter Garong, and Mr. Melchoir Pep, all members of the Pangu Pati, early this month attached their names to an opposition motion of no confidence in the Namaliu Government. But the move was frustrated when the government suspended the Parliamentary sitting until next July, and the Pangu Pati later expelled the three rebels.

In apologizing for their action, the three members pledged their continuing support for the Pangu Pati and the government.

Tonga

Pro-Democracy Forces Predict End to Monarchy

BK2311043290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0432 GMT 23 Nov 90

[By Michael Collins]

[Text] Nuku'alofa, Nov 23 (AFP)—Pro-democracy forces here expect 72-year-old King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV will be the last of Tonga's all-powerful monarchs and a democratic system will emerge after his death. Crown Prince Tupouto is sympathetic to democatic reforms proposed for the South Pacific island state, where power is enshrined in the king and noble elite, they said.

"The crown prince is different from his dad. He is in favour of a Westminster model," 'Akilisi Pohiva, the leader of the pro-democracy MPs, said Thursday. The monarchy would only survive as "a figurehead," he said.

Teisina Fuko, another pro-democracy figure, said economic woes such as falling export earnings would compel reform. "I think it (the monarchy) will end when this king has passed away," he said.

Copra, or dried coconut meat, has accounted for a third of Tonga's total export earnings, but in the six months to May prices dropped from 250 Tongan dollars (204 U.S) to 200 dollars (163 U.S.), and in June exports were abandoned as uneconomic. Tonga has also suffered drought conditions for the last three years: squash exports were badly damaged and this month were abandoned because of poor quality.

A European Economic Community report earlier this year said imports, mainly of food, far exceeded exports, while distance between Tonga's island groups handicapped development and dependency on a few products made the kingdom vulnerable to world market price fluctuations.

The clump of 170 Polynesian islands, never colonised, has been ruled by a monarch since 1875. The king's rule, while governed by a Constitution and subject to the assembly, is nearly absolute. He appointed the 12-member cabinet, naming his brother Prince Fatefehi Tu'ipelehake prime minister.

The 33 nobles elect nine MPs while another nine represent 100,000 commoners.

Pro-democracy groups have attacked the government's alleged mismanagement and corruption in their battle for political and land reform.

The kingdom was recently rocked by a scandal involving the sale of Tongan passports to Hong Kong Chinese nationals in 1984 as a means of raising revenue for this cash-strapped state.

Churches in this religious country are also pressing for change. Roman Catholic bishop Patelisio Finau has been labelled an "advocate of a political coup" by the crown prince because of his views.

One priest said the government is well aware of the strong pressure for reforms by the church in Latin America. "That worries some of these fellows," he said.

The king has said he would impose martial law if needed. But many are confident that commoners in the 300-strong army—which is being built up—would refuse to obey such an order.

Mr. Pohivi said the democratic forces within the country are unstoppable. "The choice is for the monarchy to continue on as a puppet or lose the whole thing completely," he said.

"If his majesty were to command the army to carry out (martial law), I don't think they will do it because the kinship ties in Tonga are very strong," Mr. Pohivi said. "Tongan people are strongly sanctioned by norm, not by law," he said, adding that he hopes regional powers will stay out of internal Tongan politics.

The king of Tonga is currently at his residence in Auckland, New Zealand, where he spends half the year. He recently received medical treatment for an ear infection, but is otherwise apparently in good health.